DH
DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Naravane shares publisher's post on social media platform

Page 8

US claims India will cut tariffs on some pulses

Fact sheet also differs from joint statement on red sorghum

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The United States on Tuesday claimed that India has offered to eliminate or reduce tariffs on a wide range of American food and agricultural products, including "certain pulses".

A 'fact sheet' on the India-US trade deal released by the White House mentions "certain pulses". This was not mentioned in the 'joint statement' released by India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry last week.

The mention of pulses is likely to fuel further political criticism and protests from farmer unions over the alleged compromise of India's agricultural sector interests in the proposed India-US trade deal.

Another major contradiction in the White House fact sheet and joint-statement is related to red sorghum. While the joint statement mentioned "red sorghum for animal feed" the White House claims overall red sorghum.

"India will eliminate or reduce tariffs on all US industrial goods and a wide range of US food and agricultural products, including dried distillers' grains, red sorghum, tree nuts, fresh and processed fruit, certain pulses, soybean oil, wine and spirits," noted the 'fact sheet' released by US President Donald Trump's office dated February 9.

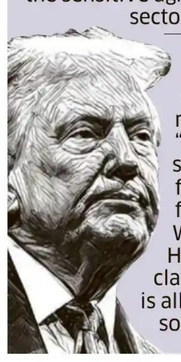
"India is committed to buying more American products and purchasing over $500 billion of US energy, information and communication technology, agricultural, coal and other products," it added.

The mention of pulses in the White House fact sheet contradicts Prime Minister Narendra Modi government's claim of protecting the interest of the sensitive agriculture sector.

"Products made by our farmers, including spices, tea, coffee, coconut, cashew, mango, banana, guava, pineapple and processed items will now face zero reciprocal tariff in the US," Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal told reporters on Saturday. "Commodities like rice, wheat, sugar, millets and pulses remain fully protected," he had claimed.

FINE PRINT

- Mention of pulses may fuel political criticism and farmer protests over alleged compromise of India's agricultural sector interests
- Fact sheet contradicts government's claim of protecting the interest of the sensitive agriculture sector
- While joint statement mentions "red sorghum for animal feed" the White House claims it is all red sorghum



B'desh tariffs cut to 19%

Bangladesh has secured a reduced 19% tariff under a trade agreement signed with the US that would exempt some textiles and garments manufactured with US materials.
Details on Page 11

No reciprocity in deal: Tharoor

The India-US trade deal looks more like a "pre-committed purchase agreement" that overturns every principle of reciprocity, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said.
Details on Page 8

Oppn moves no-trust motion against LS Speaker

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Opposition parties on Tuesday escalated their fight over the conduct of the Budget Session by submitting a notice seeking the removal of Om Birla as the Lok Sabha Speaker. They accused him of acting in a 'blatantly partisan' manner.

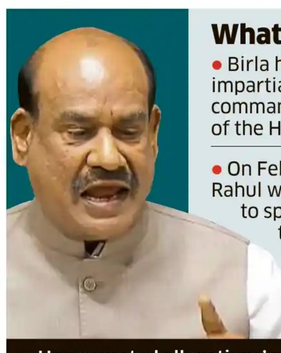
The notice was signed by 119 MPs; however, the TMC is not a signatory.

Soon after the submission of the notice, a faux pas by Congress managers who drafted the notice came to light — mentioning the year as 2025 while referring to some incidents that took place last week in the Lok Sabha — prompting them to submit a fresh notice.

Congress Chief Whip Kodikunnil Suresh led a team of Opposition MPs to submit the notice before Lok Sabha Secretary General Utpal Kumar Singh at around 1 pm, after negotiations with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju did not succeed over allowing Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi to raise contentious issues, including Gen MM Naravane's book.

Speaker Birla did not chair the Lok Sabha proceedings during the day. He will not attend House proceedings until a decision is taken on the motion. The issue is likely to be taken up on March 9, said sources.

The BJP slammed the Opposition for submitting a notice for moving a resolution to remove the Speaker from office, saying the time has come for India to 'impeach' Rahul Gandhi and the Congress from politics.
▸ Speaker, Page 5



What the notice said

- Birla has 'ceased to maintain an impartial attitude necessary to command the confidence of all sections of the House'
- On February 2, Rahul was not allowed to speak, which the Opposition claimed 'was not an isolated incident'
- The Speaker 'openly espouses the version of the ruling party (BJP) on all controversial matters'
- Unwarranted allegations' against women Opposition MPs with regard to protests against PM Narendra Modi

FAKE CHECKS

- Routine editing, technical corrections, educational material will not be termed synthetic content
- Platforms must respond to grievances within seven days; certain actions must be completed in two hours
- All AI-generated content must be clearly and prominently labelled to ensure it is easily noticeable

Govt tightens rules on AI content

Platforms to take down flagged material in 3 hours

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government has introduced strict regulations on AI-generated content, including deepfakes, requiring online platforms such as X and Instagram to remove any such material flagged by a competent authority or courts within three hours.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Tuesday notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, which explicitly expand the scope of the law to cover "synthetically generated information".

The amended rules will take effect from February 20.

The amendments define "audio, visual or audio-visual information" and "synthetically generated information" to include any AI-created or AI-altered content that appears real or authentic and is likely to be mistaken for genuine material involving real persons or events.

The government has clarified, however, that routine editing, formatting, technical corrections or good-faith creation of documents, PDFs, research outputs, and educational material will not be classified as synthetic content.

Key changes include significantly shorter takedown timelines. Platforms are now required to comply with government or court orders within three hours (previously 36 hours), as stated in the official gazette notification.

User grievance redressal timelines have also been tightened.
▸ AI, Page 5

Capture of 25 tigers raises eyebrows

BENGALURU, DHNS: The 'unprecedented capture' of over 25 tigers in the last four months in the Bandipur-Nagarahole-Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple landscape has drawn a sharp query from the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
Details on Page 5

Quickly

Another Hindu killed in Bangladesh

A 62-year-old Hindu trader was hacked to death by unidentified men inside his shop in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh in Bangladesh, a local media report said on Tuesday. The incident took place on Monday night.
Details on Page 11

P Ramaiah, veteran journalist, dead

Veteran journalist and former MLC P Ramaiah passed away on Tuesday. He was 92. Having worked for decades in The Hindu, he was fondly called "Hindu Ramaiah". He was a native of Bindenahalli in Mandya district.
Details on Page 3B

Tunnel planned in Agumbe Ghat

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has initiated steps to explore the possibility of constructing a tunnel at Agumbe Ghat section of NH-169A, which connects Udupi and Shivamogga districts.
Details on Page 3B

Bill introduced to end H1B visas

WASHINGTON, DHNS: A US lawmaker has introduced a bill to end the H-1B visa system, saying corporations have abused the system to import cheap labour. US Representative Greg Steube introduced the 'Ending Exploitative Imported Labour Exemptions Act.
Details on Page 11

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP
TODAY'S MATCHES

S Africa vs Afghanistan	@11am
Australia vs Ireland	@3pm
England vs WI	@7pm

No 'secret' talk with CM, says Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS: Amid the ongoing power struggle, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday said that there was no 'secret' talk between him and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, adding that the talks involved party seniors as well.

"Others may have confusion but I don't. Siddaramaiah and I know what we have spoken about. We both haven't spoken secretly. There's no use in others getting tensed and issuing statements."

Shivakumar was speaking to reporters before leaving for Delhi. His statement is being interpreted as a reference to the reported discussion, which is said to have taken place in May 2023, after the Congress stormed to power, in the presence of Rahul Gandhi, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and AICC general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala.
▸ DKS, Page 5

IN A BIND

Not fare: Politics derails Namma Metro

MUTHI-UR-RAHMAN SIDDIQUI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The controversy over Namma Metro's annual automatic fare hike highlights how political interference continues to dictate ticket price revisions — exactly what the independent Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) was meant to prevent.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) deferred its 5% annual fare hike — slated to take effect from February 9 — after receiving an email a day earlier from the office of its chairman Srinivas Katikithala, who is also the Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

But just a week earlier, the BMRCL chairman had told officials that the annual revision was unavoidable as it had been mooted by the FFC, whose recommendations are binding, sources in the know said.

The proposal triggered intense public backlash and political bickering over who controls the metro fares: Karnataka or Centre?
▸ Metro, Page 3B

State's financial support for BMRCL

2021-22	Rs 2,000 cr
2022-23	Rs 2,379.5 cr
2023-24	Rs 6,500 cr
2024-25	Rs 1,000 cr
2025-26	Rs 1,089 cr

> Instead of relying on straightforward audited cost data, it used a strange interpretation of the Delhi FFC formula to falsely make a case for a 105% fare hike. There never was a case for a 5% annual hike.
> **Sathya Arikutharam,** Independent mobility expert

SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN
(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
SIKSHA 'O' ANUSANDHAN
SAAT-2026

Accredited by NAAC with Grade 'A++' | UGC Graded Autonomy(Category-I) | NBA Accredited | ICAR Accredited | NABL Accredited | NABH Accredited
AICTE Approved | NMC Approved | DCI Approved | PCI Approved | BCI Approved | INC Approved | VCI Approved

PROGRAMMES OFFERED

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN CORE ENGINEERING
Civil Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN ELECTRONICS DESIGN
Electrical and Electronics Engineering
Electronics and Communication Engineering

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN CORE COMPUTING
Computer Science and Engineering
Computer Science and Information Technology

B.TECH PROGRAMMES IN EMERGING COMPUTING
Computer Science and Engineering (AI and ML)
Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
Computer Science and Engineering (Data Science)
Computer Science and Engineering (Internet of Things)

M.TECH PROGRAMMES
Structural Engineering
Electric Vehicle Technology
Machine Design and Robotics
Embedded System and VLSI Design
Computer Science and Engineering

M.Sc. PROGRAMMES
Physics
Chemistry
Mathemetics
Biotechnology
Integrated M.Sc. Biotechnology

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS PROGRAMMES
Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA)
Master of Computer Applications (MCA)

LAW PROGRAMMES
BA. LL.B (H) - Integrated
BBA LL.B (H) - Integrated
LL.B. (H) - 3 Years
LL.M. - 1 Year

MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES
BBA
MBA
Integrated MBA
MBA (Hospital Administration)
MBA (Artificial Intelligence and Data Science)

HOTEL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES
BHMCT (Bachelor of Hotel Management & Catering Technology)
MBA (Hospitality Management)

NURSING PROGRAMMES
B.Sc. (Nursing) (Basic)
B.Sc. (Nursing) (Post Basic)
M.Sc. (Nursing)

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMMES
B.Sc. (H) Agriculture
M.Sc. Agriculture

PHARMACY PROGRAMMES
B. Pharm
M. Pharm

nirf
National Institutional Ranking Framework 2025
15th in University Category
22nd in Engineering Category
15th in Medical Category
09th in Dental Category
10th in Law Category

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QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

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GBA proposes boating in 10 lakes; seeks KTCDA nod

Officials assure use of non-polluting boats

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

Boating may soon make a comeback in Bengaluru, with the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) proposing to introduce the activity in at least 10 lakes, including Ulsoor, Rachenahalli, Begur, Kaggadasapura and Rampura.

As a first step, the GBA has written to the Karnataka Tank Conservation and Development Authority (KTCDA) seeking consent.

In a letter to the KTCDA, GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the proposal aims to promote tourism.

The letter also noted that directions in this regard were issued by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh at a meeting held on January 7.

"There are a total of 183 lakes within the Greater Bengaluru Area, of which 10 have been identified on priority," the letter stated. The responsibility of managing the proposed boating facilities has been entrusted to the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC). Revenue generated from the activity will be used for lake maintenance and improving water quality, the GBA said.

Ulsoor Lake has been shortlisted by the GBA for the proposed revival of boating activities. DH FILE PHOTO

Earlier, the chief commissioner had clarified that the authority does not intend to permit diesel- or fuel-based boats. "We plan to use only non-polluting alternatives and ensure zero pollution, with minimal disturbance to aquatic life," he had said.

V Ramprasad, founder of Friends of Lakes, welcomed the proposal, provided ecological concerns are addressed. "The BWSSB continues to discharge untreated sewage into several lakes. The foul smell keeps citizens away. We hope this move will push authorities to properly maintain lakes."

However, Sujith Nair, an IT professional who photographs birds at Kaggadasapura Lake, expressed reservations.

He said boating should not be introduced unless sewage inflow is stopped. "Kaggadasapura Lake has limited water. Rejuvenation has been ongoing for nearly a decade. The sewage treatment plant is yet to be completed, and pathway and bridge works are still pending," he said.

Acreage of lakes identified for boating

- Ulsoor: 106
- Kaggadasapura: 40
- Nayandahalli: 15
- Sankey: 46
- Yelahanka: 292
- Rachenahalli: 131
- Vengaihnakere: 64
- Rampura: 188
- Begur: 137
- Madiwala: 268

Survey of malls, big buildings over tax discrepancies

Follows reports of underreported built-up area and revenue loss

BENGALURU, DHNS

The five city corporations will soon undertake a detailed survey of malls and large commercial buildings to verify whether incorrect built-up area details have been furnished during property tax payments, leading to revenue losses.

Senior officials said the Revenue Department of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has directed the corporations to carry out the exercise following inputs that several large establishments may have underreported their built-up area to reduce tax liability.

"Given the scale of these commercial properties, even minor discrepancies in reporting built-up area can result in the loss of crores of rupees in revenue. It is, therefore, essential to verify whether accurate information has been provided while paying property tax," a senior GBA official said.

The corporations have already appointed 50 GPS operators to document smaller buildings and commercial establishments. However, officials said assessing large structures requires technical expertise and specialised equipment. Each corporation will, therefore, engage external service providers to carry out the measurements.

Corporations to engage experts and specialised equipment to assess large commercial buildings. DH FILE PHOTO

"Our revenue officers routinely inspect smaller properties. However, accurately measuring large commercial complexes requires specialised tools," a senior official from the Bengaluru West City Corporation said.

Sources added that several such establishments also have pending property tax dues. "In some cases, not only are dues pending, but there are indications of undervaluation. A focused assessment is necessary," another GBA official said.

Earlier, the GBA identified nearly 10,000 houses that had allegedly evaded property tax for years by underreporting built-up area. The authority estimates a revenue loss of around Rs 370 crore and has issued notices in these cases.

Trade ban on 40-ft roads: MLA writes to GBA

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rajajinagar MLA S Suresh Kumar on Tuesday wrote to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), requesting withdrawal of the circular that bans commercial activity on roads less than 40-feet wide in residential areas.

He said the rule will destroy the livelihoods of kirana store owners, street vendors and others.

The legislator's letter comes days after the GBA issued a circular, directing officers not to renew trade licences of commercial establishments operating on roads less than 40-feet wide in residential areas.

Suresh Kumar

While the rule has existed on paper for several years, it has not been enforced unless there is a complaint from neighbours.

Noting that most residential areas in Bengaluru do not have 40-feet wide roads, the MLA estimated that the rule could lead to harassment by officers.

The circular, he said, will affect about 20 lakh people, especially small traders, grocers, pharmacists and others.

The letter pointed out that there are nearly three lakh street vendors and about two lakh kirana stores within the GBA limits. It will not just create problems for traders, but also for people who depend on their services, he added.

Kumar requested the GBA commissioner to withdraw the circular.

East Corporation reviews Bellandur, Varthur lakes

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru East City Corporation on Tuesday reviewed the rejuvenation of the Bellandur and Varthur lakes ahead of the monsoon season.

Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh directed the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), the custodian of the lakes, to complete the removal of all silt on priority.

The inspection comes as the BDA has proposed handing over both lakes to the corporation for future maintenance.

He instructed the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to stop sewage from flowing into these lakes.

The corporation also reviewed progress in acquiring land for Bagmane Tech Park Road (Goshala Road), as per the Revised Master Plan 2015.

A 24-metre-wide road from the Outer Ring Road (ORR) through Seetharampalya to Sathya Sai Hospital will be developed, Additional Commissioner (Development) Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar said.

In the first phase, the road totalling 2.2 km from the ORR to Seetharampalya Lake will be widened. Sudhakar instructed officials to open Bagmane Tech Park Road (Goshala Road) fully for public traffic.

He also reviewed the proposed widening of Swami Vivekananda Road and Old Airport Road to Siddapura and Nallurahalli Road.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Inauguration: Swasthya Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Drug-Free India, Drug-Free Karnataka, Drug-Free Campus; Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, UT Khader, Dinesh Gundu Rao, Dr Sharanaprakash Patil; Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences and Narcotics Control Bureau; Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha; 11 am.

Presentation of Th. Nanjundaswamy Memorial Award: B Vitthal Rao (Appaiah), chairmanship: Srinivas G. Kappanna; Nayana Hall, Kannada Bhavan, JC Road; from 4.30 pm.

CULTURAL

'Saurabha': State-Level Inter-College Drama Competition-2026; Inauguration by B Jayashree, guests Ravi Hegde, KV Nagarajamurthy, DN Venkatarao; Organised by: Ranga Saurabha; Sansa Bayalu Ranga Mandir; from 5.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

'Saras Bharathi Vilas' Religious Discourse: Aitareya Acharya; Raghavendra Swamy Math, Malleswaram; 7 am.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Mainly clear sky

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	30.0°C
Minimum	16.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	32%
Sunset (Feb 11)	6:24 pm
Sunrise (Feb 12)	6:44 am
Moonrise	12:44 am
Moonset	12:18 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

BDA recovers three acres of land worth Rs 125 crore

BENGALURU, DHNS

As part of its anti-encroachment drive, the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Tuesday reclaimed nearly three acres of land in Ullal and Agrahara Dasarahalli villages with assistance from the local police and its engineering staff.

BDA engineers and police personnel during the encroachment clearance drive in Ullal and Agrahara Dasarahalli on Tuesday. PHOTO: BDA

During the operation, the BDA demolished unauthorised constructions on one acre in Survey No 34 and one acre and one gunta in Survey Nos 38/1, 38/2, 38/4 and 38/5 of Ullal village in Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bengaluru North taluk. It also cleared 33 guntas in Survey No 8 of Agrahara Dasarahalli village.

The total value of the recovered land is estimated at approximately Rs 125 crore, officials said.

BDA proposes new housing project in Austin Town

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is considering a new housing project in Austin Town, with officials preparing the building sketch.

The land, situated in the city's core area, covers 1.13 acres.

The location also falls under the Shantinagar assembly constituency, represented by BDA Chairman NA Haris. The BDA has allocated Rs 55.65 crore to the Shantinagar segment for works, including a government school and college building, a sports stadium in Jogupalya, and a football stadium in Austin Town.

A BDA engineer said the project is still in the conceptual stage. "Once the drawing is ready, we will seek approval from the BDA commissioner." He added that the new project will replace the old residential building.

So far, the BDA has taken up large housing projects on the city's outskirts such as Kommaghatta, Kaniminake and Hunnigere, given the availability of large parcels of land.

West corp plans pay & park in Basavanagudi

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru West City Corporation (BWCC) is considering introducing a pay-and-park system on select roads in Basavanagudi to ease traffic congestion and augment revenue.

BWCC Commissioner Rajendra KV on Tuesday directed officials to identify suitable locations and take steps to implement the system. Officials were instructed to remove unauthorised flex boards and banners and to identify and penalise those dumping garbage on roadsides and in vacant plots.

In a statement, the BWCC said, "Directions were also issued to ensure trade licences are granted strictly in accordance with prescribed rules and to take necessary measures to enhance road safety."

Officials were directed to repair equipment in parks, identify dried or damaged plants and take remedial action, and ensure proper upkeep of streetlights.

BWSSB prepared to tackle summer challenges: Chairman

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is fully prepared to address any challenges that may arise during the summer, its Chairman Ramprasath Manohar V said on Tuesday.

"With summer approaching, the BWSSB has stepped up its preparedness to effectively manage water demand and address potential scarcity in specific pockets of the city," he said.

Chairing a high-level review meeting with senior officials to assess summer readiness, Manohar said the board has identified high-density areas and localities likely to face water stress.

"To mitigate this and ensure uninterrupted access to drinking water, the board will install mini water tanks in the identified areas," he said.

He directed officials to prioritise the deployment of the BWSSB's own tankers and 'Sanchari Cauvery' mobile tankers, and to hire private tankers only if necessary.

Officials have been directed to use BWSSB and 'Sanchari Cauvery' tankers before hiring private ones. DH FILE PHOTO

Daily field visits mandatory

Officials have also been instructed to conduct daily field visits.

"Officers must visit their respective jurisdictions, assess the ground situation and ensure that water reaches the identified areas without fail," BWSSB Chairman Ramprasath Manohar V said.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Notice to the Respondent No.3
Vide order dated:03.02.2026
R.F.A. No. 1848/2023

Smt. R. Uma ...Appellants
(By Sri: R. Ravishankar Adv., for appellant)
-V/s-
Smt. K. Anandi Krishnamurthy and others ...**Respondents**
(By Sriyuths: S.V Bhat and another Advs., for R1, Venugopal M.S Adv., for R2)

To. **Respondent No.3: SRI. B.K. GOPALA SHETTY,** R/AT NO.7, R.K PURAM, S.C ROAD CROSS, BENGALURU-560 009.

Appeal from the Judgment & decree passed on 30.05.2023 in O.S Number 772/2005 on the file of the V Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal on **09/03/2026** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of this court, on this 09th Day of February 2026.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka at Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our clients are desirous of acquiring all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing Municipal No.5, 2nd Cross Loop Road, Racecourse Road, Bengaluru, (earlier Municipal No. 21, 21/1, 21/2, 21/3, Race Course Road, Bangalore), measuring about 24,228.125 square feet presently bearing E-PID No.5626139708, Ward No.94- Gandhinagar, Bangalore measuring about 24231 square feet along with the building standing thereon measuring about 22111.979 square feet, more fully set out in the schedule below and hereinafter referred to as the **"Schedule Property"**, from its present owners, Venkatesh Mady son of Sadaram Mady his wife Jyothi Mady and children S. Varun Mady and H. Bhoomika Upadhya all residing at No.10, Nehru Nagar, Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020. Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the Schedule Property or the documents thereof or against the owners or objecting to such transaction in favor of our clients should write to the undersigned within **fifteen (15) days** of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regards to the Schedule Property or any part thereof, after which period my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.5, 2nd Cross Loop Road, Racecourse Road, Bengaluru, (earlier Municipal No. 21, 21/1, 21/2, 21/3,Race Course Road, Bangalore), measuring about 24,228.125 square feet presently bearing E-PID NO.5626139708, Ward No.94- Gandhinagar, Bengaluru, measuring about 24231 square feet along with the building standing thereon measuring about 22111.979 square feet, and bounded as follows:-

EAST : Property belonging to C. Rangaswamy and Subramanya Swamy Temple and 2nd Cross Loop Road;
WEST : Racecourse Road;
NORTH : Renukacharya College Complex;
SOUTH : Property belonging to K.L.Bhatiah and others;

R. SUNITHA, Advocate
CMS INDUSLAW
101, First Floor, "Embassy Classic, No. 11, Vittal Malya Road, Bangalore-560 001.
Ph: 080-40726600

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. 0101-RNC-DCE-C-01-2026, dated 09.02.2026. e-Tender is invited by Chief Engineer(Con-I)/Garden Reach-700043, S.E.Railway for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website **www.ireps.gov.in** The tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on due date. **Brief Description of Works** : Construction of new Electric Loco trip shed:- Execution of Earthwork in Formation & Cutting including P. Way Linking Work with Ballasting including Loop Lines & Siding, Construction of Sheds & Service Building, Road & Inspection Pit, Circulating Area including other related work in Hatia of S.E.Railway. Estimate No. 2046W/2025. **Approx. Cost :** ₹ 16.88 Crore. **Bid Security :** ₹ 9,94,300/-. **Completion period:** 18 months. **Closing Date :** 27.02.2026. Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. **N.B. :** Prospective Bidders may regularly visit **www.ireps.gov.in** to participate in all other tenders. **(PR-1166)**

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Chennai Division (Mechanical Branch) (ENHM WING)
GEM Bid No. GEM/2026/B/7192895 dated: 06.02.2026

Divisional Railway Manager/Mechanical Branch/ EnHM Wing/Chennai Division, Southern Railway Chennai 600003, for and on behalf of President of India invites **ONLINE** Tenders for the following work as per Gem Bid document given in the e-tender portal www.gem.gov.in. The tenderer(s)/bidders intending to apply for e-tender for outsourcing of "Comprehensive Cleaning contract of Moore Market Complex and Moore Market Sub-urban Terminal for a period of 04 years (1461 days)" in Chennai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender through portal **www.gem.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of EMD can also be paid through online in GeM portal as per bid document.

Description : Comprehensive Cleaning contract of Moore Market Complex and Moore Market Sub-urban Terminal for a period of 04 years (1461 days)
Location : Moore Market Complex and Moore Market Sub-urban Terminal
Tender value : Rs. 8,31,35,711/-
Earnest Money Deposit in Rs. 5,65,680/-
Period of completion : 1461 Days

Tender closing date and time: 27.02.2026 @ 20:00 Hrs. The details of tender value, EMD value are given in e- portal **www.gem.gov.in** for details bid submission please refer to web portal **www.gem.gov.in.**

Assistant Environment & Housekeeping Manager,
For Divisional Railway Manager/ Mechanical – EnHM wing
Chennai Division, Southern Railway - 600003

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MG RAILWAY COLONY BENGALURU

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Walk-in-interview for the following post will be conducted **on 13.02.2026 from 8.30am** onward to prepare a panel of **PART TIME / CONTRACTUAL TEACHERS** for the **Academic year 2026-27** on purely contractual basis.
REGISTRATION TIME : 08.30am to 10.00 am

Post(s)
1. PGT – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science/ IP, English, Economics, Hindi, Commerce **2. TGT – English, Hindi, Science, Maths, Social Science and Sanskrit** **3. Primary and Balvatika Teacher**
Other Post – Counsellor, Staff Nurse, Special Educator, Computer Instructor, Band Instructor, Sports Coach, Yoga Teacher, Art and Craft Teacher, Dance Teacher and Kannada Teacher
Note: 1. Candidates to report along with duly filled application form, Original Certificate of qualification, one set of self-attested copy of certificates and 2 passport size photographs for registration. 2. No TA/DA will be provided for interview. 3. To download application form, eligibility criteria, minimum qualification etc. For more details visit the school website : **https://mgrly.kvs.ac.in/**

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Government Certificate course on
Artificial Intelligence for BI and Business Analytics
Course Duration: 5 Days
Course Timing- 7.30 PM TO 8.30 PM
ऑनलाइन ONLINE
Course Date 16 TO 20 Feb. 2026
Email ID: training@idemi.org Website: www.idemi.org
Contents : Data Fundamentals & ◆ Databases Data Warehousing & ETL ◆Data Visualization & Dashboards ◆Descriptive & Diagnostic Analytics Predictive Analytics & Machine Learning Basics ◆Business KPIs & Metrics ◆Data Governance & Quality ◆BI Tools & Platforms ◆Data Modeling & Star Schemas ◆AI in Business Intelligence
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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CN/01/2026 Dated: 22-01-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: Tender Closing time : 10:30 Hrs.

Tender No	Description in Brief	Tender Due on
56255268	PVC insulated Railway signaling indoor cable 1 X 60 core X 0.6 dia as per RDSO specification No. IRS:S-76/89 (amd-3) or latest. Qty : 43 Km.	21-02-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Materials Manager, Construction
PUB/850/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26 Bengaluru Cantonment

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Chhattisgarh InfoTech Promotion Society(CHiPS)
2nd Floor SDC Building, Civil Lines, Raipur, Chhattisgarh 492001
Phone : 0771 -4014158 Fax : 0771 -4014158 E-mail: ceochips@nic.in

TENDER NOTICE

No 05/CEO/CHiPS/AADHAAR/2026 RAIPUR, DATED 06/02/2026

Chhattisgarh Infotech Promotion Society (CHiPS), under Department of Information Technology, CG invites technical and financial proposal from reputed Bidders for **"SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF AADHAAR ENROLMENT KIT (AEK) FOR CHHATTISGARH INFOTECH PROMOTION SOCIETY (CHIPS)"**

GeM BID NUMBER: GEM/2026/B/7200646

The document can be downloaded from the website **www.chips.gov.in** & **www.gem.gov.in**

S-46851/1 CEO, CHiPS

जिला अभियंता का कार्यालय जिला परिषद, खूँटी

अति अल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई० टेन्डर रिफरेन्स नम्बर – DOPR/DE/KHUNTI/18/2025-26

क्र.	प्रखण्ड	कार्य का नाम	प्रा० राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Torpa	Construction of 50 Bedded Hostel at Residential Upgraded High School, Tapkara, Torpa, Khunti	2,29,40,000.00	4,58,800.00	10,000.00	12 माह
2	Arki	Construction of 50 Bedded Hostel at ST Boy's Residential High School, Hunth, Arki, Khunti	2,29,40,000.00	4,58,800.00	10,000.00	12 माह

नोट :–

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समयः– 16.02.2026 के अपराह्ण 05:00 बजे।
2. ई–निविदा डालने की अंतिम तिथिः– 22.02.2026 के अपराह्ण 05:00 बजे तक।
3. ई–निविदा की परिमाण विपत्र एवं अग्रधन की राशि ऑनलाईन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समयः– 22.02.2026 के अपराह्ण 05:00 बजे तक (e-Procurement Portal-jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः– 24.02.2026 अपराह्ण 01:00 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– जिला अभियंता, जिला परिषद, खूँटी।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 9430752050
7. जिला परिषद, खूँटी / RWD/BCD के समुचित श्रेणी का निबंधन ही मान्य होगा।
8. उपरोक्त निविदा का निष्पादन Double Bid System के अनुसार किया जायेगा।
9. खूँटी जिला अन्तर्गत वैसे संवेदक जिनका कार्य Work Program के अनुसार नहीं चल रहा है। वे इस निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु अयोग्य समझें जायेगे।
10. निविदा डालते समय पथ निर्माण विभाग, झारखण्ड राँची के संकल्प संख्या 2146 (एस) दिनांक 09.09.2024 में निहित प्रावधान के आलोक में संवेदक द्वारा 10 प्रतिशत से अधिक दर Quote करने Additional Performance Security की राशि निम्नवत जमा करनी होगी।
    (i) 10 से 20 प्रतिशित Below की राशि का 20 प्रतिशत तथा
    (ii) 20 प्रतिशत से अधिक Below की राशि का 30 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त जमानत की राशि जमा करना होगा।
11. प्राक्कलित राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है, तदनुरूप ही अग्रधन की राशि (ऑनलाईन) जमा करना होगा एवं इस संबंध में में कोई दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।
12. अधिक जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/–
जिला अभियंता,
जिला परिषद, खूँटी

PR 372723 District (25-26)_D

Biklu Shiva murder case: HC rejects anticipatory bail to BJP MLA

Says custodial interrogation needed; fair probe at risk

BENGALURU, DHNS

Byrathi Basavaraj

In a setback to BA Basavaraj, BJP MLA from the KR Puram constituency, the Karnataka High Court has rejected his petition seeking anticipatory bail in the Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shiva murder case.

The court also discharged the interim anticipatory bail granted to Basavaraj by a vacation bench on December 26, 2025.

"The interrogation of powerful accused such as the petitioner, who is highly influential, armed with an order of anticipatory bail, may not be as effective. The decision as to the manner of investigation must be left with the Investigation Authority and the court cannot sit in judgment over the same," Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav observed in his order.

Shivaprakash was murdered on Meanee Avenue Road in Bharathinagar on July 15, 2025, and Basavaraj has been arraigned as accused No 5 in the case. The investigation was transferred to the CID on July 24.

The High Court had earlier quashed the order invoking provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA) in the case on December 19. Basavaraj approached the High Court after the special court for cases involving MPs/MLAs refused to grant him anticipatory bail.

During the hearing, the Special Public Prosecutor for the CID submitted that custodial interrogation of Basavaraj was necessary as he had not been cooperating with the investigation. It was further submitted that Vijayalakshmi, mother of the deceased, stated in her complaint that there was prior animosity between her son and the MLA.

The prosecution also pointed out that Shivaprakash had filed a complaint on February 18, alleging that Basavaraj and two others, including his nephew Kiran, were attempting to kill him if he did not give up possession of a property in Kithaganur village.

After perusing the investigation material and the call detail records (CDRs), the court noted that the prosecution's stand deserved prima facie acceptance.

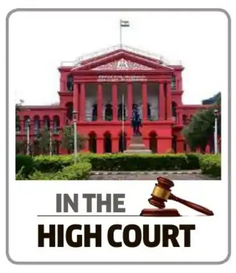
"The perusal of the investigation material placed before the court prima facie reveals that there are substantial records, which may be required to be confronted to the accused as part of the investigation. Such material consists of CDRs, enquiry reports on the complaint of the deceased and photographs of the petitioner along with the other accused. No doubt, such evidence is a matter to be subjected to further scrutiny; however, the request of the respondent-state for custodial interrogation cannot be brushed aside," the judge observed.

The court further said: "Considering that the grant of anticipatory bail is an extraordinary relief, the court is of the opinion that, given the political power wielded by the petitioner and the fact that the deceased and his mother reside within the same constituency, there is a possibility of a fair investigation being hampered, which is also a ground to deny anticipatory bail."

Paramour can't be drawn into proceedings for dowry harassment, rules HC

Sets aside case against woman, refers to Supreme Court ruling

BENGALURU, DHNS



The Karnataka High Court has said that a paramour cannot be drawn into proceedings for offences punishable under IPC section 498A (dowry harassment), which is essentially meant for disputes between family members.

Justice M Nagaprasanna said this while quashing a criminal case registered against a woman from Mysuru.

The petitioner woman challenged the case registered for offences punishable under IPC sections 498A, 323, 504, 506 and sections 3, 4 and 6 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.

The complainant had filed a case against her husband, several family members, and the petitioner woman. The police filed the charge sheet, naming the petitioner woman as accused number five in the case.

The complainant (wife) stated that her husband had an illicit relationship with the petitioner woman and it continued after the marriage. The complaint further alleged that the husband and in-laws demanded dowry. It was also stated that the husband abused the complainant, saying he would have lived happily had he married the petitioner woman.

The complainant contended that although IPC Section 498A or offences under the Dowry Prohibition Act cannot be filed against a paramour, other offences under IPC sections 323, 504 and 506 (assault, criminal intimidation) could apply to the petitioner woman. It was further argued that IPC Section 498A could be attracted against a paramour who is instrumental in disturbing the family.

After perusing the complaint and the charge sheet, Justice Nagaprasanna said it is a settled principle of law that a total stranger, neighbour or paramour cannot be drawn into proceedings for offences punishable under IPC Section 498A.

Citing the Apex Court judgment in the Dechamma IM case, the court observed that a woman with whom a man has romantic relations outside marriage would not be a "relative of the husband" under IPC Section 498A.

The court also noted that none of the ingredients of IPC sections 503, 504 and 506 are found in the complaint or the charge sheet.

"What remains is the offence under Section 323 of the IPC, for which there is no wound certificate indicating the petitioner assaulted the complainant. In the absence of all these sections, a paramour cannot be drawn into proceedings for offences punishable under Section 498A of the IPC, which is essentially meant for disputes between family members. In that light, the petition deserves to succeed," the court said.

National meet on digital literacy

BENGALURU, DHNS: Enable India, a city-based organisation, recently hosted a summit to advance digital literacy and dignified livelihoods for persons with visual impairment.

The SeeAMillion Parivartan Summit 2026 brought together experts and representatives from 15 states and regions. The event highlighted real-life journeys showing how access to technology and inclusive training has helped people.

Mahadev Sawant, a person with low vision from Goa, shared how early educational barriers and inaccessible learning methods nearly forced him to abandon his studies.

He described the turning point in his life.

Sumita, an assistant trainer at RCGF, Kerala, recounted her journey from being an engineering college professor to losing her vision in a road accident and spending years without access to rehabilitation.

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18 arrested for cheating in army recruitment test

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Halasuru police on Monday arrested 18 candidates from Haryana for allegedly indulging in malpractices during the Army Group 'C' recruitment exams.

The examinations were held on February 8 within the limits of the Halasuru police station.

Police said the candidates allegedly resorted to copying using Bluetooth devices networked to other gadgets and mobile phones during the exams.

The exams were held for direct recruitment to Civil Defence Employee Group 'C' posts, specifically Lower Division Clerk positions.

During checks, officials spotted 18 candidates, aged between 22 and 25 involved in malpractices at the exam centre; 12 communication devices and three mobile phones were found in the bags of two candidates, identified as Aman and Rajat.

Five arrested for robbery; pistol, valuables worth Rs 2.5L seized

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Madanayakanahalli police have arrested five people in connection with a robbery case and seized valuables worth Rs 2.5 lakh, along with a pistol allegedly used in the offence.

The arrested have been identified as Ankith Nath, 30, a samosa vendor; Anoop Singh, 30, a garment shop worker; Ravi Rao, 28, a jewellery maker; Anoop Ram, 23, a waiter; and Arun, 31, a daily wage worker. They are all natives of Rajasthan.

According to the police, the owner of Ramdev Jewellers and Bankers in Dasanapura village lodged a complaint on January 27. He stated that on the evening of the incident, when two children were inside the shop, a man entered and asked to see earring designs on his mobile phone.

While they were conversing, another person entered the shop and allegedly threatened them with a pistol. A third accomplice then entered, stole gold earrings, nose pins, gold chain beads and Rs 50,000 in cash from the drawer, and fled.

During the investigation, police recovered a mobile phone that had been left behind at the shop by the suspects. "Based on technical and field investigation, and credible information from informants, one suspect was apprehended near a garment shop in Kothanur on February 2. During interrogation, he confessed to his involvement in the offence," police said in a statement.

Subsequently, five people were arrested. One more suspect is absconding. Police are also tracing the source of the pistol used in the crime.

The recovered property includes four mobile phones, a two-wheeler and 9.1 grams of gold ornaments.

'D' Group staffer held for stealing gold, cash from Vidhana Soudha office

BENGALURU, DHNS: In a major security lapse, a handbag with gold jewellery weighing about 300 grams and Rs 1.5 lakh in cash was stolen from the Vidhana Soudha office of Byrathi Suresh, Minister for Urban Development.

The incident has raised serious questions over security protocol inside the high-security government complex.

A senior police officer said Naveen, who had visited the minister's office for official work, carried the handbag containing cash and gold ornaments with him.

He reportedly forgot the bag inside the office and left the premises.

The next day, Naveen returned to check for the handbag but found it missing. He lodged a complaint with the Vidhana Soudha police station.

During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage from the premises and saw Antony, a Group 'D' employee attached to the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR), allegedly taking the handbag.

He was taken into custody.

The incident raised questions about how such a large quantity of gold and cash was allowed inside the Vidhana Soudha, bypassing security checks.

St Joseph's College hosts lecture on contemporary socio-political, cultural issues

BENGALURU, DHNS

Civil rights activist Teesta Setalvad at the annual Republic Day Lecture organised by the Department of English at St Joseph's College of Commerce.

The Department of English at St Joseph's College of Commerce recently hosted its annual Republic Day Lecture on campus.

Each year, the college invites a noted public intellectual to speak on contemporary socio-political and cultural challenges faced by the Indian Republic.

The eighth edition of the lecture was delivered by Teesta Setalvad, civil rights activist and journalist, on the theme 'Towards Strengthening Indian Democracy: A Personal Reflection'.

Referring to India as a "democracy in the making" that is witnessing a downward trend in the current political climate, Teesta spoke about what she termed a "counter-revolution" and alleged attempts by sections of the political establishment and corporate interests to hollow out the Constitution.

She also criticised the abdication of democratic responsibility by sections of the media through the spread of propaganda, misinformation and disinformation.

In a statement, the college said she further discussed shifts in foreign policy, referred to the Non-Aligned Movement, and critiqued what she termed the exploitation of public resources and national reserves by crony capitalists.

Commenting on the incarceration of journalists under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), she reflected on the nature and condition of the Indian state.

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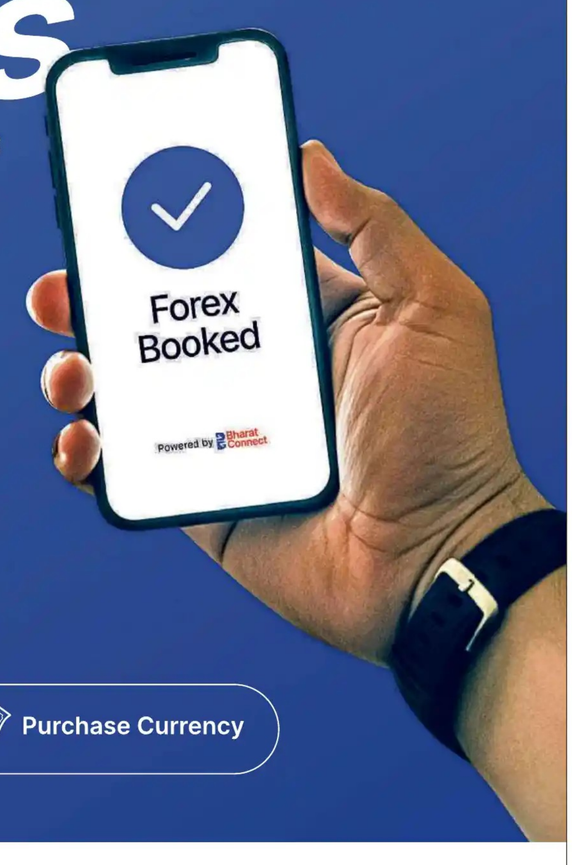

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Union counters Pai's attack on auto drivers

A proactive approach is needed to unite stakeholders and establish fair meter rates that benefit both commuters and drivers, an activist says.

The business tycoon slams auto drivers as undeserving of citizen support; they say not all are bad

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Noted businessman Mohandas Pai's scathing criticism of Bengaluru's auto drivers has drawn a counter from them.

On Saturday, he tweeted, "Why should citizens support auto drivers? How many of them use the meter? Many charge high fares and extort money. Do they deserve any support?" (sic). He was responding to a tweet about auto rickshaw unions appealing to Prime Minister Modi for a ban on the bike taxis.

Some users defended the drivers, while others sided with Pai, labelling them "extortionists" and "the bane of society."

"Society can only function if those at fault are reprimanded. However, it is unjust to condemn an entire community because of a few individuals," said Rudramurthy, General Secretary of the Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU), in response to Pai's tweet.

He added that those who engage in extortion, refuse service, or behave poorly should face consequences. "We are even open to establishing a school to equip auto drivers with soft skills, but, of course, we cannot fund that ourselves," he noted, and added, "Younger auto drivers often break traffic rules and need to be trained."

Long onboarding

Goutam H, auto driver with Namma Yatri, told *Metrolife* that many commuters prefer app-based rides for their stable fares, despite potential surge prices. This puts a lot of pressure on drivers who are not on apps, he explained.

Autodrivers *Metrolife* spoke to detailed the challenges they face, from a lack of jobs to competing with ride-hailing apps.

A civic activist stated that auto drivers, like others, seek a better life, but their meter fares have not kept pace with inflation. He called for the formation of a fare fixation committee, on the lines of the one for the Metro. "The committee can include auto driver representatives, civic body specialists and government officials. Instead of a fixed fare, they can decide on a formula through which the fare increases periodically," he said, adding that fares are much higher in the smaller cities of Karnataka.

Satya Arikutharam, independent urban mobility expert, has met many auto drivers who prefer to operate by the meter. "These drivers often don't receive much visibility because commuters tend to rely on apps," he explains.

Healthcare for drivers

Ride hailing apps and bike taxis are only a few of the challenges auto drivers face.

The auto unions that *Metrolife* spoke with emphasised the need for proper policies, healthcare, and training. C Sampath, general secretary of the Adarsha Auto Drivers Union, argued that commuters should hold the government accountable for the lack of supportive policies.

"At the end of the day, autos are an integral part of public transportation in the city. Instead of blaming the drivers, commuters should listen to their concerns," he stated.

He also stressed the need for a pension fund for retired auto drivers. "We do not get health or vehicle insurance from the government. With low meter fares and insufficient earnings from working on apps, insurance will make a huge difference," he explained.

Sunil Kumar, a newcomer to the city, highlighted the challenges of getting his auto registered, saying it required a lengthy and complicated process involving brokers. "However, bike taxis are operating without similar regulations," he said.

"While app incentives initially attracted drivers, they often ended up earning less than metered fares," said Syed Pasha, a driver who has not signed up with any app.

Kumar typically charges Rs 20 above the meter fare to help cover costs, noting even small extras from multiple clients can make a difference.

Drivers often request extra fare, like "one and a half" or "double meter," due to a scarcity of hailed auto jobs, they pointed out.

Long hours, high pressure are burning out Bengalureans

Experts have seen up to a 35% rise in cases since 2021

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Mental health and medical experts have seen a 15-35% rise in burnout cases among Bengaluru's working professionals compared to five years ago.

The topic has returned to the spotlight after Bengaluru-based marketing agency founder Meenal Goel took to LinkedIn to describe her ordeal. Six months of 14-hour workdays left her burnt out, she wrote. Many netizens responded by sharing similar personal experiences.

Neha Cadabam, senior psychologist and executive director at a private hospital, has observed a 30-35% increase in burnout-related consultations since 2021, largely among those aged 24 to 38. She describes burnout as "one of the most common concerns among urban professionals" and attributes it to long working hours, performance pressure, and blurred work-life boundaries.

Dr Chandil Gunashekar, a Whitefield-based general physician, has seen a 30% rise in such cases over the same period. "Until around 2020, most people worked fixed hours. Today, late evenings and night calls are common in tech-based roles," he says.

Muniswamy K S, consultant clinical psychologist at a private hospital, says about a third of the working professionals he sees show burnout patterns.

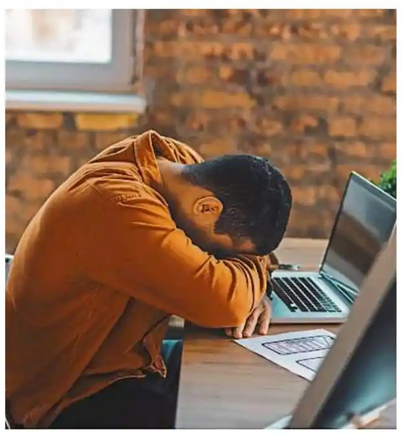
These experts say performance pressure and job insecurity are major causes of burnout, especially in technology and startup spaces.

However, they have seen differences in how men and women cope. Women, despite additional caregiving and household responsibilities, are often more willing to seek help. Men, on the other hand, tend to delay seeking support due to societal expectations.

Who is affected?

Neha frequently sees burnout among professionals in IT services, consulting, and creative industries. Flagging a worrying trend, she says that younger professionals are experiencing burnout earlier than before.

Dr M Ravi Kumar, senior consultant in internal medicine and diabetologist at a private hospital, also sees many 20- to 30-year-olds struggling with long hours and high-pressure work cultures. "Stress peaks between November and March. It is a period of financial closures and project releases and brings heavier workloads and tighter deadlines," he says.



Medical and mental health experts say men tend to delay seeking support for burnout due to societal expectations.
PIC FOR REPRESENTATION

Dr Gunashekar's observations differ slightly. He has seen burnout across sectors, including construction and finance, particularly among those aged 30 to 50. He refers to people in this age group as the 'sandwich generation', those who must balance caring for ageing parents and young children alongside demanding jobs.

Early signs

Early warning signs include irritability, low motivation, and poor concentration, says Neha. Dr Kumar adds that withdrawal from family, disturbed sleep, and loss of interest in hobbies are other indicators.

Muniswamy points to persistent fatigue and low energy as clear indicators. "If you are never able to relax, that is a warning sign," he adds.

How to cope

Dr Kumar advises professionals to seek help and communicate openly with managers, friends, and family.

Muniswamy suggests identifying stressors and factoring in recovery time, like 10-minute breaks between meetings.

He also highlights the idea of embracing "emotional salary", where one values their mental wellbeing as much as financial pay.

POPCORN

Ro your boat

Football fans in the US are hooked to Super Bowl, the final game of the National Football League season. And what's this ad they see? Tennis star Serena Williams poking herself with a syringe and promoting Ro, a new generation weight-loss drug. Turns out her husband is an investor in the telehealth company pushing it. Kids are big fans of the game, so has she got her target audience right? Some fans' question: 'Serena, idu sareena?'

EVENTS

Group exhibition
'Harmony – Expression of Indian Wash Method', a group exhibition by 13 artists, showcasing the traditional Indian wash technique, is on view at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road, until February 15.

Dance and theatre
'Lono: The Woman Who Had Two Navels', a contemporary dance, puppet theatre and illusion performance presented by the Attakkalari India Biennial and Goethe-Institut, will be held at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on February 11, 7.30 pm. Entry free. RSVP to bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Kannada play
'Vishwamitra Menake Dance Madodhu Enak—Ask Mr YNK', a Kannada comedy-drama play, will be staged at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar, on February 11, 7.30 pm. Tickets online.

Kavita to sing for cancer charity

'Sur Sandhya' returns this Saturday in support of a cancer foundation.

Since its inception in 2000, 'Sur Sandhya' has been striving to "blend meaningful music with social responsibility", says Sandhya Ramesh, who is behind the initiative. Over the years, the platform has supported several causes. This edition is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for cancer care through the HCG Cancer Foundation.

The highlight of the evening will be a fireside chat between renowned radio and media personality Harish Bhimani and Padma Shri awardee Kavita Krishnamurti. During the chat, Kavita will speak about her career, highlighting milestone songs and the remarkable personalities she has worked with. Five singers from across the country will perform the playback singer's yesteryear songs.

Kavita told *Metrolife* that she is excited to be part of the concert, noting that "all the proceeds will go towards a noble cause". The event will culminate in a live performance by her, during which Kavita will render a few of her popular songs, like 'Dil ne kaha', 'Hawa hawaii', 'Aaj main upar', 'Tu hi re', 'O sajna', 'Dola re', among others.

February 14, 6 pm, at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte. Tickets online.

Event spotlights rural women entrepreneurs

ARYA S M
TEAM METROLIFE

A stall from an earlier edition.

A festival focused on rural women entrepreneurs will be held on February 14. The event is titled WEUtsav and is being organised by Women Entrepreneurs Access Connect Transform (WeAct), a national-level initiative formed by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad.

It aims to give a platform to rural women entrepreneurs to showcase their entrepreneurial journey. Some urban women businesses will also be a part of the festival.

A total of 200 entrepreneurs from 10 different states of India are expected to participate in the event. The festival will feature product exhibitions, live craft demonstrations and state-wise experience zones that focus on heritage, culture, ethnicity and iconic landmarks.

The showcase will include food and agricultural products, household supplies and clothes. Millet-based products, handmade soaps, handwoven saris and fabrics that are GI-tagged will all be on sale. "Most of these women have completed class 10. We offer them support to set up their own businesses and connect them to buyers," says Samuel Moses Amarnath of WeAct.

February 14, 11 am to 6 pm, at Koramangala Indoor Stadium. Entry free.

Eight unique gifts for Valentine's Day

All under Rs 1,000

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

Personalised star map

The personalised star map print from NR Nikrish Gifting is a picture of the night sky on a day that means something special, such as an anniversary or first date. Available on Amazon.

Photo puzzle

Turn your photograph into a heart-shaped puzzle with F2P. This activity is perfect for couples who enjoy solving puzzles together. Available on Amazon.

Mini pocket printer

The Curious Hub mini pocket printer allows users to print photos instantly from their phone while on the go. Available on Flipkart.

Engraved wooden bookmark

For the avid reader, consider a set of engraved wooden bookmarks that double up as a DIY project. It can be decorated with paints, sketch pens or colour pencils. Available on Amazon.

Starry night projector

Create a dreamy atmosphere in any room with a starry night projector light. This one is from Bosig Star Master Projector. Available on Amazon.

Sound-wave keychain

This set of keychains, from Tradewithmj, features sound waves of songs you like. Available on Flipkart.

Zen garden meditation kit

The Zen garden Japanese meditation kit from Etsy is a tiny tabletop garden that is perfect for unwinding together. Available on Etsy.

Tea sampler

This tea sampler box from Vahdam has 24 flavours of tea, ranging from ginger mint and classic chamomile to pumpkin spiced and hibiscus rose. Available on Amazon.

Cute B'luru AI video goes viral

TEAM METROLIFE

Google India's Instagram page has gotten in on the AI miniature trend with a reel showcasing popular Bengaluru spots. It was posted on Friday and instantly went viral. The animated video, generated using Gemini, has since received around 3.56 lakh views and over 10,700 likes.

It captures everyday scenes from the city, including children skating and people resting in Cubbon Park. Iconic haunts like Blossoms Book House on Church Street, and the flower market at Gandhi Bazaar are also featured. A hot chips stall on Malleswaram Road, a food takeaway counter in Indiranagar, a server handing out dosas at Vidyarthi Bhavan, and a cafe in Koramangala are some of the other scenes depicted.

Check the video on @GoogleIndia on Instagram.

The flower market at Gandhi Bazaar.

Unique passport for landmarks across Karnataka

According to Bengaluru's Philatelic Bureau, the initiative has drawn maximum participation from the city

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Nearly 300 Bengalureans are on a waiting list for a 'passport' that requires them to collect permanent pictorial cancellations (PPCs) from all districts of Karnataka. These PPCs are special postmarks featuring images of landmarks and culture, issued by select local post offices.

Since November 2024, the Karnataka Postal Circle has been issuing this booklet called the Philately Passport. It carries brief information on each landmark, along with a facing page where visitors can affix a stamp and have it cancelled with the site's PPC. So far, about 1,000 passports have been released in limited batches in English, Kannada, and Hindi. The first edition featured 80 landmarks, and the second featured 20. The latest edition, released two months ago, combined both to cover 100 sites, and sold out all 85 copies within two days.

'Treasure hunt'

The Philately Passport returned to the spotlight recently, thanks to an Instagram reel posted by Bengaluru couple Shashank Punia and Shruti Tyagi. The video follows them as they get cancellations stamped in their booklet at the General Post Office (GPO) on Raj Bhavan Road and post offices across Ambedkar Veedhi, Museum Road, Jayanagar, and Basavanagudi. These cancellations respectively depict Vidhana Soudha, the Beaulieu heritage mansion, the Sandesh Museum of Communication, the Ashoka Pillar, and a Kempegowda Tower.

Punia, a hardware designer, and Shruti, an SAP consultant, were drawn to the philatelic trail as it offered a chance to travel and create online content. They had been eyeing this passport since November and left their details at the GPO, but never heard back. Last month, they found it online, priced Rs 300 above the official rate, and decided to buy it.

Couple Shashank Punia and Shruti Tyagi have so far collected six cancellations, including one depicting Vidhana Soudha (right), on their Philately Passport.

"The passport turns an ordinary trip to a post office into a treasure hunt. We were rummaging through boxes for stamps that could pair well with the cancellations. For instance, we bought Ambedkar stamps at the Ambedkar Veedhi post office," says Punia.

The couple is heading to Udupi this weekend, where "visiting post offices and getting cancellation marks" is on their itinerary alongside beaches and food. Udupi has the highest number of PPCs in the state, with 16.

Meanwhile, Harish P Selkey, an associate manager, is one cancellation away from having his passport fully stamped. "I have 79 out of 80 cancellations. Only the Nagarhole cancellation is pending. When I went there, their equipment wasn't working," says the 28-year-old. A philatelist and avid traveller, Selkey spent two months on the trail, biking across Bengaluru and relying on buses, trains, and hitchhiking elsewhere. Locals went out of their way to help him. "In Yadgir, a staff member of the Bonhal post office came to pick me up from the bus stand. In Shivamogga's Humcha post office, I was given a special cover as a return gift. In Kokkarebellur in Maddur, a staff member waited for me past closing time," he shares.

However, both Punia and Harish have encountered post offices where staff were either unaware of the initiative or reluctant to provide cancellations, as it disrupted their work.

HOW TO BUY IT

The Philately Passport can be bought from philatelic bureaus in Bengaluru (GPO), Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Belagavi for Rs 700. The next batch is expected in about 15 days. According to Bengaluru GPO's philatelic bureau, nearly 90% of buyers are young people, including content creators, travellers, and bikers. *For door delivery and enquiries, write to philatelybggpo.ka@indiapost.gov.in*

Education dept to phase out Nali-Kali from next academic year

Kannada devpt authority urges govt to reconsider decision

BENGALURU, DHNS

Starting from 2026-27, the Nali-Kali programme, a flagship initiative focused on activity-based learning, will be phased out of government schools, confirmed the Department of School Education and Literacy.

In its recent order for the procurement of textbooks for the coming academic year, the department has indicated that the programme will be discontinued in 16,762 Urdu- and Kannada-medium schools across the state. This follows close on the heels of the department's decision to introduce bilingual classes at 25,014 schools across 15 districts for students of classes one to five.

Meanwhile, reactions to the department's decision have been mixed. While the Karnataka State Primary School Teachers Association has welcomed the decision to discontinue Nali-Kali, the Kannada Development Authority (KDA) wants the department to reconsider the decision. Urging the Minister for School Education and Literacy to re-evaluate the decision, KDA Chairman Purushotham Bilimale has submitted a report wherein the initiative's many advantages have been highlighted.

A file photo of Nali-Kali class in progress. The initiative entails interactive and group activities to make learning fun.

The programme holds promise, but its implementation has left much to be desired, pointed out KDA. The appointment of teachers not trained for Nali-Kali in the place of those who were equipped for the job but retired too has impacted the implementation of the initiative, KDA stated in its report.

At schools where the number of children was high, teachers were unable to spare attention for each child. The KDA's report also pointed to instances of learning material such as charts not being supplied to schools promptly. "Many teachers do not understand the concept behind Nali-Kali," said the KDA's report.

Making learning fun

Nali-Kali evolved at Rishi Valley, and was first rolled out at a government school in HD Kote, with the support of UNICEF in 1995. Nali-Kali entails interactive and group activities to make learning fun. Materials for Nali-Kali were supplied by not-for-profit organisations associated with the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Although then Additional Chief Secretary of the department Ajay Seth tried his best to revive the initiative in 2017, he also held strongly to the view that scribbling on walls was not the same as writing on notebooks.

The task force constituted for the implementation of the National Education Policy-2020 had recommended that the implementation of Nali-Kali be re-evaluated, besides suggesting separating students of classes one from those in classes two and three.

Motive behind Chandan Kumar's murder yet to be known: HM

BENGALURU, DHNS: The motive behind the killing of Chandan Kumar Raja Nandakumar (37), who was shot dead in Canada, is yet to be known, Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Tuesday.

Parameshwara, who visited the bereaved family in Nelamangala and consoled the parents, said that the local police in Canada were continuing their investigation into the incident.

The HM said that the Karnataka government had initiated efforts to bring back the mortal remains of Kumar to India before February 16. "I pray that God grants eternal peace to the departed soul and gives strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss," Parameshwara added.

He said that the state police department had been directed to coordinate with the Union Ministry of External Affairs to ensure that the mortal remains were brought back to India at the earliest.

Parameshwara further said that through the Ministry of External Affairs, the Canadian government would be urged to conduct a thorough investigation into the murder.

The parents of Chandan Kumar interacted with Parameshwara for a long time and recalled Kumar's social service.

They said that Kumar had helped several Kannadigas during the Covid-19 pandemic and had aspired to assist job seekers who wished to settle in Canada.

Many Indians living in Canada have appreciated Kumar's involvement in social service and pro-Kannada activities, which he organised regularly.

Meanwhile, villagers of Thyamagondlu and members of several organisations will hold a candlelight march, titled 'Chandan Nenapu', to mourn his death and to pay tribute to him on Wednesday.

Mysore Sandal soap goes global: KSDL launches 60 new products

Brand an emotion, childhood nostalgia and trust of authenticity: Tamannaah

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major push to transform the century-old Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited (KSDL) into a global FMCG powerhouse, the government on Tuesday unveiled noted actor Tamannaah Bhatia as the brand ambassador for its iconic Mysore Sandal soap brand.

The announcement coincided with the mega launch of 60 new products across personal care and home care segments, signalling KSDL's strategy to compete with private multinationals.

Actor Tamannaah Bhatia poses as brand ambassador for state-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents Limited in Bengaluru on Tuesday. The company is set to relaunch its flagship soap with a contemporary new look. Chairman of KSDL Appaji C S Nadagouda and Industries Minister M B Patil are seen. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

Large and Medium Industries Minister M B Patil presided over the event. KSDL chairman Appaji C S Nadagouda and managing director Prashant were among those present.

Speaking at the launch, Tamannaah described the association as a new chapter in her 20-year career.

"Mysore Sandal is not just a soap. It is an emotion, childhood nostalgia and the truth of authenticity. I am honoured to take this heritage brand to a global audience," she said.

Minister Patil revealed a roadmap to scale the PSU's turnover to Rs 5,000 crore by 2030.

"We are expanding our footprint beyond south India to north India and international markets including US, UK and the Middle East," Patil said.

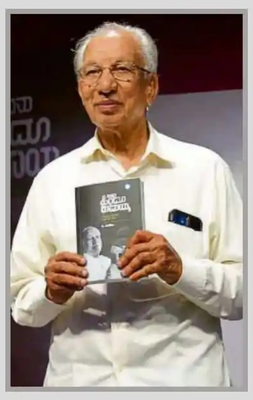
He said the product portfolio had grown from 36 to 93 products under the current administration, including a new premium 'Maharaja and Maharani' perfume series inspired by the traditional scents of Kannauj.

The managing director reported a net profit of Rs 451 crore for the 2023-24 fiscal, a significant jump from Rs 182 crore in 2022-23.

To mark this success, KSDL handed over a special dividend of Rs 350 crore to the state government.

The new product line includes shower gels, face packs, toothpaste, hand washes and home care items like fabric conditioners and floor cleaners. The minister highlighted a premium Jasmine soap priced at Rs 400, aimed at the European market.

Veteran journalist P Ramaiah no more



P Ramaiah
(1933-2026)

BENGALURU, DHNS

Veteran journalist and former MLC P Ramaiah passed away on Tuesday. He was 92.

Born on September 12, 1933, Ramaiah was a native of Bindenahalli in Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya District. He was fondly called "Hindu Ramaiah," as he worked for five decades as a journalist in *The Hindu*.

Having served as the Karnataka Bureau Chief of *The Hindu*, Ramaiah was nominated as an MLC by the Janata Dal government in 1998. He remained in office till 2004.

Condolences pour in

Condoling the veteran journalist's death, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said on X (formerly Twitter): " I am deeply saddened by the passing of senior journalist and former MLC P Ramaiah. He was associated with *The Hindu* for over five decades, always working in the interest of the state."

Union Heavy Industries and Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy recalled Ramaiah as a mentor and fatherly figure.

"A distinguished embodiment of humane, honest and value-driven journalism, he was fondly known amongst the people as Hindu Ramaiah. I pray that the almighty grants peace to his noble soul and strength to his family, especially Mrs Ramaiah, and to his countless admirers to bear this profound loss," he said.

Centre plans to construct tunnel road at Agumbe ghat

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has initiated steps to explore the possibility of constructing a tunnel at Agumbe Ghat section of National Highway 169A, which connects Udupi and Shivamogga districts.

Shivamogga Lok Sabha member B Y Raghavendra on Tuesday announced here that the Centre was planning to construct the tunnel as part of widening existing highways for smooth movement of traffic.

The MoRTH has invited tenders for preparing a feasibility study, detailed project report (DPR), survey and land planning to upgrade the highway from km 30.75 to km 51.60 into a two-lane road, with pedestrian pathways on both sides, he said in a statement.

The tender includes provisions for engaging tunnel design experts and senior geo-technical engineers. It allocates a dedicated budget for detailed geo-technical investigations to evaluate feasibility of constructing a tunnel along this stretch.

The DPR will be prepared in six months, with Rs 2.33 crore allocated for the task, he said, adding that the Agumbe Ghat road was an environmentally sensitive area and prone to accidents, he said.

A hairpin curve in Agumbe Ghat.

Not fare: Politics derails Namma Metro

Metro, From Page 1

The hike was timed exactly a year after the fares had been increased by an average of 51.55% before discounts and 46.39% after discounts, making the Bengaluru metro one of the most expensive in the country.

After BMRCL announced the hike on February 5, the Opposition BJP targeted the Congress government. However, the state insisted it had no role to play in the exercise. It also specified that the FFC was constituted by the Centre and that its recommendations are binding under the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, a central law.

Confusion deepened three days later when BJP leaders claimed that the hike had been put on hold on the Centre's directions. To further muddy the waters, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar declared that it was the state that had decided to withhold the hike. The Centre has no power to interfere in this matter, he added.

He also said he had asked BMRCL to reassess the fares based on operating and maintenance costs, CPI changes, staff expenses, energy costs and other factors.

Technically speaking, BMRCL deferred the hike following a directive from its chairman, the sources added.

This legal nuance highlights how BMRCL is caught between political pressures from both sides.

BJP's Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya said the FFC was constituted by the Centre at the state's request. The state had told the committee it could no longer continue the Shadow Cash Support (SCS) that earlier governments were providing, he told *DH*.

Sources noted that the first request to constitute the FFC was made in 2020, when the BJP was in power in Karnataka.

Independent mobility expert Sathya Arikutharam blamed the BMRCL for the mess.

"Instead of relying on straightforward audited cost data, it used a strange interpretation of the Delhi FFC formula to falsely make a case for a 105% fare hike. There never was a case for a 5% annual hike given the multiple self-evident errors in BMRCL's FFC report," he said.

He stressed that the state cannot walk away from its SCS commitments, which are enshrined in the tripartite MoU.

Sources countered that there were no anomalies in the FFC calculations and pointed out that the state bears a big chunk of the metro funding — equity, land acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R), SCS for cash loss reimbursement and interest-free sub-debt towards loan repayments and so on. "It has been paying but how long will it continue to pay," they asked.

They added that the fare reassessment ordered by the DCM would be limited to the 5% fare hike.

"Our operating costs rose by 10.2%, but the hike was capped at 5%. We will get our calculations audited. If the required hike is lower, we will implement that," the sources said.

On reconstituting the FFC, the sources said the process would take time. "It took four years—from 2020 to 2024—to constitute the first FFC. So you can guess how long this could take," they added.

HDK calls on Naidu, seeks Krishna water for parched districts

Says extending canal network can help supply surplus water

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Union Steel Minister H D Kumaraswamy on Tuesday requested Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to supply surplus Krishna river water from Bukkapatnam reservoir near Puttaparthi to the drought-prone districts of Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru North.

During a meeting with Naidu here, Kumaraswamy highlighted the severe drinking water scarcity in these districts which border Andhra Pradesh and fall in the Palar and Pennar river basins.

He noted that rapid depletion of groundwater had left the region almost entirely dependent on borewells, making it one of the most water-stressed areas in south India.

Accompanied by Kolar Lok Sabha member M Mallesh Babu of the JD(S), Kumaraswamy submitted a memorandum stating that the Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) project had already established a reliable system for transferring Krishna river water to Pennar basin.

"The HNSS canal network now extends close to the borders of Kolar and Chikkaballapur districts, making a technical extension both feasible and cost-effective," the memorandum said.

He recalled the precedent set during the tenure of former Andhra Pradesh chief minister, the late N T Rama Rao, when 15 tmc ft of water was diverted to Chennai under 'Telugu Ganga' project.

The memorandum proposed that by optimally utilising the existing HNSS infrastructure, surplus monsoon flows from Krishna river could be seasonally diverted exclusively for drinking water purposes to Kolar, Chikkaballapur and Bengaluru North districts.

"This approach will significantly reduce dependence on unsustainable groundwater extraction, avoid fresh environmental imbalances, minimise capital expenditure and provide a reliable, climate-resilient drinking water solution to these chronically water-scarce regions," the memorandum said.

2-day US-India space summit focuses on accelerating partnerships

Space programme not for competing with anybody, but to benefit common man: Isro chief

BENGALURU, DHNS

The US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), along with the US Consulate General, kicked off a two-day conference on the space sector on Tuesday.

Titled the 'US India Space Business Forum', the event aims to deepen collaboration, accelerate partnerships and unlock new commercial opportunities in the space domain between the two countries.

Starting off with opening remarks by Nivedita Mehra, managing director, USISPF and Carey Arun, acting consul general, and principal commercial officer, US consulate general, Chennai, the event then moved on to a keynote address by Isro chairman V Narayanan.

In his speech, Narayanan shed light on the collaborations between Isro and the US over the years and other accomplishments of Isro in recent years.

"The entire activity of the Indian space programme was started in 1962. The entire programme was started, not with the aim of competing with anybody, but to bring advanced space technology for the benefit of the common man of India. However, today, we strongly believe that it should not just benefit Indians, but the global population too. It is a human-centric, application-oriented programme," he said.

The Isro chief stressed the need for such an initiative to be an internationally collaborative programme.

The event hosted multiple panel discussions on topics like 'India's call for FDI in space sector: 'Vision and implementation' and 'Earth observation: An important tool for nation's economic development,' featuring experts from various institutions.

The second day of the forum is set to feature a fireside chat with Eric Stallmer, executive vice president for government affairs and public policy, Voyager Technologies, and five panel discussions on allied topics.

Khader made member of panel on Constitution's 10th schedule

BENGALURU, DHNS: Legislative Assembly Speaker U T Khader has been appointed to a four-member Committee of Presiding Officers constituted to examine matters related to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, according to an official release issued by the Karnataka Secretariat.

The committee, appointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, is chaired by Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, with Odisha Speaker Surama Padhy and Nagaland Speaker Sharingain Longkumer as members.

The Committee met on February 9 and 10 at Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai and deliberated on issues related to anti-defection provisions and legislative procedures.

KIA to adopt real-time analytics for better passenger experience

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a bid to transform Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) into a data-driven "algorithmic airport," the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) on Tuesday announced a strategic partnership with global decision sciences firm Mu Sigma.

The collaboration aims to overhaul passenger experience by leveraging real-time insights and advanced AI. By integrating Mu Sigma's Decision Intelligence Platform, the BIAL intends to move beyond traditional operations, anticipating traveller needs before they arise.

The algorithmic shift will be most visible at key touchpoints. Predictive analytics will be deployed to monitor and reduce wait times at retail outlets, restaurants, and security queues. For those driving to the airport, dynamic pricing and real-time demand forecasting are expected to streamline parking and transport logistics.

Hari Marar, MD & CEO, Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL) with Dhiraj Rajaram, Founder and CEO, Mu Sigma.

Digital engagement is also set for an upgrade. Users of the airport's 'Pulse' app and official website will receive tailored recommendations and loyalty rewards based on individual passenger intent. Inside the terminal, location-based promotions and improved digital signage will aim to make wayfinding effortless.

"Harnessing Mu Sigma's capabilities will allow us to personalise every interaction and anticipate disruptions before they occur," said George Fanthome, Chief Technical Officer, BIAL.

Dhiraj Rajaram, Founder and CEO of Mu Sigma, noted that as the gateway to India's IT capital, the airport must serve as a "symbol of innovation."

He added that the partnership seeks to create the world's first true algorithmic airport, reimagining the travel journey as a "seamless memory."

Minister announces a series of reforms to clean up excise dept

Counselling for transfers; portal for licence renewal

BENGALURU, DHNS

Excise Minister R B Timmapur on Tuesday announced a series of reforms aimed at eliminating corruption and reducing the interference of middlemen to overhaul the image of the excise department.

Addressing a press conference after a progress review meeting, the minister set an ambitious revenue target of Rs 40,000 crore for the current fiscal year. He expressed confidence that the department would achieve this goal. The department has already collected Rs 34,735.18 crore as of January end, he said.

Excise Commissioner R Venkatesh Kumar, Excise Minister R B Timmapur and Additional Commissioner Y Manjunath address a press conference about the reforms introduced in the excise department, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Digital push

To tackle long-standing allegations of bribery in transfers and licensing, Timmapur highlighted the shift to a counselling-based transfer system and an automated online portal for licence renewals.

"We have streamlined the licence renewal process to be completed within 48 hours. Previously, obtaining a CL-7 (hotel/boarding) licence involved navigating 16 different tables. We have slashed this to seven tables to minimise human interface and delays," Timmapur said.

The minister added that timeline-based accountability has been fixed: Deputy Commissioners (Excise): 5 days, District Commissioners (DC): 10 days, Excise Commissioner's Office: 5 days.

He warned that the officials causing unnecessary delays would face strict action, noting that two Deputy Commissioners have already been suspended for such lapses.

Responding to concerns regarding the inflow of counterfeit liquor and "CH Powder" (Chloral Hydrate) from neighbouring states, the minister announced the formation of special task forces.

"We are seeing a high volume of illegal liquor entering from Goa into Karwar and Belagavi. Similarly, official toddy sales in Andhra Pradesh lead to illegal 'CH Powder' mixed toddy entering Raichur. We are deploying additional personnel from other districts to these border areas to intensify vigil," he said.

Disciplinary action

Referring to the political heat he faced during the recently concluded special legislature session, Thimmapur dismissed allegations of corruption as "politically motivated character assassination."

He said that 158 officials are currently facing disciplinary inquiries for various irregularities.

"There is a culture in this department where certain officials and self-styled associations try to blackmail the administration. I have provided documents showing that the association making allegations against me has not held an election or a meeting in 20 years. My goal is to leave this department clean through structural reforms," he said.

The minister also noted that the department is investigating the misuse of industrial and domestic ethanol.

New guidelines for distilleries, including staffing regulations and stricter monitoring of ethanol movement, are expected to be introduced before the upcoming Budget session, he said.

Expedite release of MSP claims, state urges Centre

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa on Tuesday urged the Centre to expedite the release of pending Minimum Support Price (MSP) reimbursement claims of Rs 1,446.36 crore.

In a memorandum submitted to Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi, during a meeting, Muniyappa highlighted that the state has been actively procuring coarse grains and paddy/custom milled rice (CMR) from farmers under the MSP scheme.

He stated that provisional reimbursement claims, totalling Rs 1,446.36 crore ---pertaining to the Kharif Marketing Seasons (KMS) 2023-24 and 2024-25 --- have been pending for a considerable period. "The prolonged delay in the settlement of these claims is placing severe strain on the state's financial resources," he said.

Muniyappa added that procurement operations for KMS 2025-26 are currently underway. As of January 31, 2026, more than 2,86,365 farmers have already registered to supply their produce under the scheme, he said.

He emphasised that the timely availability of funds is essential to ensure prompt payment to farmers.

REVA University unveils 'Educate to Enterprise'

(Left to right) Gaurav Yadav, Dr Beena G, Dr P Shyama Raju, Dr M Dhanamjaya and Dr J B Simha at the unveiling of 'Educate to Enterprise' and launch of REVA RISE.

REVA University announced its new academic vision, 'Educate to Enterprise', a future-focused strategic direction aimed at preparing students for a world shaped by rapid technological change, evolving career pathways and continuous disruption.

The vision was formally unveiled by Dr P Shyama Raju, Chancellor, REVA University, along with the senior leadership team. The university also introduced REVA RISE (REVA Initiative for Scholastic Excellence), its flagship Scholarship Aptitude Test designed to identify and support meritorious and high-potential students, and students from rural and under-represented backgrounds.

"Educate to Enterprise is not about creating entrepreneurs alone, but about cultivating an enterprising mindset in every learner. It encourages students to take initiative, identify opportunities and create meaningful, sustainable solutions", said Dr Shyama Raju.

Dr M Dhanamjaya, Registrar; Dr Beena G, Registrar (Evaluation); Dr J B Simha, Chief Mentor, School of Computer Science and Engineering; and Gaurav Yadav, Director -Admissions, spoke at the event.

"Educate to Enterprise redefines how learning outcomes are envisioned and evaluated. It focuses on nurturing critical thinking, initiative and problem-solving abilities, ensuring that assessment supports innovation, application and lifelong learning", said Dr Beena.

DH REVA University

REVA University has restructured its engineering and allied programmes to align with emerging technologies and evolving industry needs. The redesigned curriculum integrates STEM education with Liberal Studies through a flexible basket of specialised minors, electives and open electives, enabling holistic, multidisciplinary and future-ready learning.

The university introduced B.Tech in Design Engineering to build capabilities for developing complex and technologically-intensive engineering products, along with minors and honours degree programmes offered in association with the IITs. "The restructuring of our programmes is driven by the need to stay ahead of industry and societal change, ensuring graduates are equipped with relevant skills, adaptability and real-world readiness", said Dhanamjaya.

REVA launched the School of Geopolitics and Public Policy, offering programmes such as BA Political Science and MA International Relations and Strategic Studies. Strengthening Liberal Studies further, the university introduced a four-year Bachelor's in Psychology, designed with multiple electives to promote multidisciplinary learning and an enterprising outlook aligned with its Educate to Enterprise vision.

REVA RISE reflects REVA University's commitment to nurturing talent early and building a future-ready generation. Conducted annually during April–June, the initiative promotes inclusive excellence. "By identifying merit and potential early - including students from rural backgrounds - we are enabling deserving learners to access quality education with up to 100 per cent scholarship", said Gaurav Yadav.

"Artificial intelligence is no longer optional - it is foundational. At REVA, we are embedding AI awareness and application across disciplines to prepare students to work alongside intelligent systems and lead responsibly", said Dr Simha.

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OBITUARY

JUTHIKA IRENE RATNAM
(8.2.1953 – 9.2.2026)

Passed away peacefully on Monday, February 9.
Wife of the late Suresh Gopal Ratnam.
Funeral service: Thursday, February 12, 2026, 10:30 a.m. at St. John's Church, Bangalore.
Ratnam and Jagadeesan families.

Resurvey identifies 23k former Devadasis

BENGALURU, DHNS

A state-wide resurvey has identified 23,395 former Devadasi women across 15 districts of Karnataka. The report also furnishes information on the social status of former Devadasis and their families up to the third generation.

The comprehensive survey by the Department of Woman and Child Development in coordination with the Karnataka State Women's Development Corporation, conducted between September 15 and December 31, 2025, covering 90,092 family members belonging to the first, second and third generations of former Devadasis, was submitted to the state government on Tuesday. Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar has urged the government to announce a special package for the rehabilitation of former Devadasis, besides reiterating the need to end the prohibited practice.

The five districts with highest number of former Devadasis are Bagalkot (4,189), Vijayanagara (3,876), Belagavi (2,649), Koppal (2,469) and Ballari (2,333). Following a series of meetings chaired by the minister, a web-based application through Seva Sindhu was developed with the help of the e-Governance and Citizen Services Delivery Directorate to collect data on those who were undocumented in the previous survey.

Given that a majority of the former Devadasis hail from communities categorised under Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Backward Classes, the report recommends offering special scholarships and financial assistance for education. The report also called for doing away with the mandatory requirement of entering the father's name in school and college records. Access to residential schools and special coaching for competitive examinations were the other recommendations made in the report.

Besides, the report highlights the need for skill development training, support for income-generating activities, coverage under pension and welfare schemes, and others.

Title deeds to 1L people at Haveri convention: KBG

BENGALURU, DHNS: Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Tuesday said that one lakh people would be given title deeds in a convention in Haveri on February 14 to mark the Congress government's 1,000 days in office.

Speaking to reporters, Gowda said: "Title deed is not just a paper. It's a computerised document issued by E-Swattu. We will issue title deeds that cannot be duplicated."

Earlier, Gowda, Sugar Minister Shivanand Patil and MLA Srinivas Mane discussed the upcoming convention with beneficiaries.

"Our government is giving a 100% land guarantee. Alongside title deeds, we are also getting it registered at the sub-registrar's office. We are giving title deeds to those living in villages without documents... This is an achievement of our government," he added.

The government had a very clear idea on land ownership, said Krishna Byre Gowda, adding that 49 lakh properties in the state were registered in the name of deceased individuals.

"Officers are working towards getting those lands registered under the names of the concerned individuals," said Krishna Byre Gowda.

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I, SAI SOUMYA I. MADAWAL, D/o Sri Iranna, aged 21 years, #36/1, 17th B Cross, Ranganatha Puram, Malleswaram, Bangalore-3 have changed my name from Sai Soumya Iranna Madawal to Sai Soumya I. Madawal vide Affidavit dated 18-08-2025 sworn before Notary Lakshminarayana, Bangalore.

Change of Name

I ANNE MARCEY H #7, 3rd Cross SP Naidu Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, Dooravaninagar, Bengaluru-16 have changed my name to ANNE MERCY H vide affidavit dated- 10/02/2026.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Oppn submits no-trust motion against LS Speaker

Speaker, From Page 1

Initially, the Opposition was planning to submit the 10-page notice with signature and text of resolution around 11:30 am, but they deferred it as a meeting was scheduled with Rijiju. The Opposition was of the view that they would not move ahead with the 'no-confidence motion' against Birla if Rahul is allowed to speak.

Senior Congress MPs Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and KC Venugopal, DMK's TR Baalu, Samajwadi Party's Dimple Yadav, CPM's K Radhakrishnan, RSP's NK Premachandran and VCK's Thol Thirumavalavan were among the MPs from 12 parties, including RJD, NCP-SP, National Conference, Kerala Congress (J) and CPI(ML) who signed the notice.

Trinamool did not sign the notice with its Lok Sabha floor leader Abhishek Banerjee saying his party has 'no problem' in signing the notice, but insisted that the Opposition should first approach Om Birla with their grievances, such as the suspension of eight MPs.

"If our grievances are not addressed in three days, we can always move a motion," he said.

The text of the motion the Opposition proposes to move in the House claimed that Birla has "ceased to maintain an impartial attitude necessary to command the confidence of all sections of the House; that in his partisan attitude he disregards the rights of Members of the House and makes pronouncements and gives rulings calculated to affect and undermine such rights."

It also claimed that he "openly espouses the version of the ruling party (BJP) on all controversial matters, that all these acts constitute a serious danger to the proper functioning of this House and ventilating the felt concerns and grievances of the people, and therefore resolves that he be removed from his office".

In the notice, the Opposition claimed that on February 2, Rahul was not allowed to speak, which they claimed 'was not an isolated instance' and that almost invariably, he is not allowed to speak. The second charge was about the 'arbitrary' suspension of 8 MPs on February 3, penalising them 'merely for exercising their democratic rights'.

They also found fault with allowing a BJP MP, Nishikant Dubey, to make 'wholly objectionable and personalised attacks' on two former prime ministers without being reprimanded and no action taken against him.

The Opposition also accused Birla of making 'unwarranted allegations' against women Opposition MPs with regard to protests against Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Birla directed the Secretary General to examine the notice and take appropriate action, sources said.

There are indications that the treasury benches and the Opposition may have agreed to end the stalemate in the Lok Sabha over LoP Rahul Gandhi's speech. Rahul is likely to speak tomorrow, as the House took up budget discussions on Tuesday.

NTCA raises redflag on high tiger captures

Questions state govt's narrative that big cat numbers nearing/exceeding capacity

A file photo of a tiger rescue operation.

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

The "unprecedented capture" of over 25 tigers over the last four months in the Bandipur-Nagarahole-Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple landscape has drawn a sharp query from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), with state forest officials asked to adopt a scientific approach.

In a letter dated January 27, NTCA inspector general of forests Shivakumar C M referred to deliberations within NTCA and the attention it drew from various stakeholders to seek clarity in the matter from the chief wildlife warden.

Four deaths

The state government and the forest department have come under pressure after four persons were killed and two injured in tiger attacks. It can be recalled that the government had shut tiger safaris to remove disturbances in big cat habitats.

A statutory body, NTCA has the power to issue directions to officers or authorities who shall be "bound to comply".

In the latest letter, however, the authority only raised questions over the approach of the forest department in dealing with conflicts.

Noting that Karnataka was known for tiger conservation, the authority questioned the recent trend.

"In the past three to four months, an unusual and unprecedented increase in tiger capture incidents has been reported, particularly from Bandipur-Nagarahole-BRT landscape. As per available information, 27 such instances have occurred in this period," it said.

The NTCA questioned the government's narrative that the tiger populations are approaching or exceeding ecological carrying capacity.

The authority reviewed the available scientific assessments to state that tiger populations remain "within" estimated carrying capacities.

It said Bandipur, where the population of tigers was around 110 tigers, had a capacity to host 229; Nagarahole has 135 tigers against its capacity for 170 and BRT tiger reserve has 29 tigers against its capacity for 81.

Mudumalai comparison

The authority pointed to Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai tiger reserve, which has 58 tigers against the capacity to host 92.

"Tiger density in adjoining Mudumalai is comparable to those of Bandipur and Nagarahole tiger reserves. However, only one tiger capture has been reported there during the same period, that too in the case of an injured animal," it said.

While acknowledging the "primacy" of human safety, the letter called for a "careful and objective review" at the landscape level to identify underlying causes, evaluating responses and ensuring that future interventions remain aligned with NTCA guidelines.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Kumar Pushkar, who took over the post of Chief Wildlife Warden on February 1, said capture or rescue operations were decided based on conflict situations.

Attacks on humans

"Attacks on human beings have to be prevented and conflict situations should be reduced to ensure conservation. Every capture operation is informed to them and then action taken. We will respond to NTCA," he added.

An official in Mysuru acknowledged the problem. "Protecting tiger habitats requires a complex set of measures. Right now, the department is under pressure to avoid conflict situations. Captures and relocations won't help in the long term," he said.

No 'secret' talk with CM, says Shivakumar

DKS, From Page 1

The statement also comes at a time when Siddaramaiah is preparing for his record-extending 17th Budget, suggesting he is expected to continue as chief minister for a while.

'Follow Kharge's dictum'

Shivakumar also recalled Mallikarjun Kharge's dictum to state Congress leaders to 'shut up' and not openly speak about internal matters like power sharing.

"Kharge sahab has said that everybody should shut up. Whoever may be giving statements in my favour or against me should follow that. All of these are damaging to the party." Shivakumar's statement comes days after Siddaramaiah's son and MLC Yathindra claimed that the High Command had given a 'clear signal' that there would be no leadership change.

Yathindra's statement led to backlash from Shivakumar loyalist, Ramanagara MLA, Iqbal Hussain.

Hussain, who had earlier been served a notice for speaking about the power struggle, had also sought similar treatment to Yathindra.

The deputy chief minister explained that he had been invited to an AICC meeting in Delhi to discuss the upcoming elections in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and Puducherry.

Stating that he may have to go to Assam, Shivakumar said he had informed Siddaramaiah that he would not be able to attend the pre-Budget meeting.

High Command call final: CM

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah reiterated his stand that the High Command's call would be final about the change of power.

"I will not go to Delhi as I have not been invited. Moreover, I have enough work to do here," he added. When asked about Shivakumar's absence from the water resources department's pre-Budget meeting, Siddaramaiah said, "He wrote to me and took my permission to be absent from these meetings as he is attending meetings in Delhi related to the Assam elections."

Govt tightens rules on AI content

AI, From Page 1

Platforms must now respond to grievances within seven days (down from 15 days), and certain specified actions must be completed within two hours.

Under the new rules, all AI-generated content must be clearly and prominently labelled in a manner that is easily noticeable and adequately perceivable.

Intermediaries are also required to embed unique identifiers or metadata to trace the computer resource used to create, generate, or modify such content. Once applied, these labels and metadata cannot be removed, altered, or suppressed.

Calling for ban on illegal AI content, new rules said platforms must deploy automated tools to prevent AI content that is illegal, deceptive, sexually exploitative, non-consensual, or related to false documents, child abuse material, explosives, or impersonation.

Avenues

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The post is unreserved. However, candidates belonging to SC / ST / OBC / PH (Only OH) / Ex-SM categories are free to apply for the post provided they satisfy all the eligibility conditions. The selected candidate will draw Basic Pay of ₹ 1,77,400/- per month in the Pay level 14 of 7th CPC Pay matrix. He/she will also be entitled for a Special Compensatory Allowance of ₹ 13,600/- counting for superannuation benefits. Exceptionally meritorious candidate could be started at higher level of Pay solely as per the discretion of BRBNMPL. He/she will be eligible for perquisites approved by BRBNMPL as per rules, as applicable to the post.

For detailed advertisement and format of the application for the above post please refer to the complete advertisement No.**1/2026** displayed in the Career page of the BRBNMPL's website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Any corrigendum to the advertisement will be displayed only on the Company's website **www.brbnmpl.co.in**. Application complete in all respect should be sent to The Managing Director, BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN PRIVATE LIMITED, Corporate Office, No. 3 & 4, 1st Stage, 1st Phase, BTM Layout, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru - 560 029 superscribed with Application for the Post of Managing Director - BNPMIPL.

The last date for receipt of the applications is February 28th, 2026.

(Hindi version of this advertisement is available in Dainik Jagran and Nav Bharat Times dream jobs)

Government of Karnataka
KARNATAKA FOREST DEPARTMENT
Office of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
(Head of Forest Force), Karnataka, Aranya Bhavan,
18th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru – 560 003. 080-23346551

No. KFD/EWRT/A2(COR)/27/2025-EWPRT Dated: 09-02-2026

NOTIFICATION FOR THE POSITION OF PUBLIC RELATION OFFICER (PRO)

Applications are invited for the post of **Public Relation Officer (PRO) on contractual basis for an initial tenure of two years** in the Karnataka Forests, Wildlife and Climate Change Foundation (KFWCCF).

Eligible and Interested candidates may apply in the prescribed Application form which can be downloaded from the official website of KFWCCF **(http://kfwccf.in)**

Application must be submitted on or before 25-02-2026, Wednesday.

Details regarding Application Process, Application Form and Terms and Conditions governing the appointment etc., are published on the official website of KFWCCF **http://kfwccf.in**

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DIPR/CP/YC/5561/2025-26

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- **DATE FOR FILING ONLINE APPLICATION & PAYMENT OF FEES: 29.01.2026 TO 18.02.2026**

For any query, please write to us through the link **"CONTACT US" → "Post Your Query"** which is available on Bank's website **https://sbi.bank.in/web/careers/current-openings**.

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Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society
Arogya Soudha, 1st Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 23
Ph: 080-23113588

No.: NHM/PM-ABHIM/HR/Recruitment-State/Notification//2025-26(E-1926199) Date: 10.02.2026

Walk-In- Interview for various posts under PM-ABHIM

The Karnataka State Health & Family Welfare Society invites eligible candidates for Walk-In-Interview for the various vacant posts under PM-ABHIM. The posts are temporary and purely on contract basis. For detailed information login to **www.hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in & nhm.karnataka.gov.in** address.

Walk-In-Interview has been scheduled on **23.02.2026 @ 11.00 AM**. In the office of Chief Administrative Officer, National Health Mission, 1st Floor West wing, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, 1st Cross, Bengaluru-560023.

Sl. No.	Programme Name	Name of the Post	Number of Posts	Reservation Category
1	PM-ABHIM	Senior Public Health Consultant	01	UR
2		Public Health Consultant	01	UR
3		Data Analyst	01	UR
4		Hub Engineers	01	UR

**Candidates will not be allowed after scheduled time.

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Health Mission

DIPR/CP/5566/SA/2025-26

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*Interested / Eligible candidates as per AICTE norms can send their resume to **recruitment@ksgi.edu.in** within 5 days from the date of this advertisement.*

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Expected pause amid growth signals

The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to leave the policy rate unchanged at 5.25% was not unexpected, since lowering rates to boost growth is not a priority of the times, and the past few quarters have seen such cuts. The growth outlook has improved, and the economy is expected to grow by 7.4% this financial year, on the back of private consumption, fixed investment, and a strong service sector. Manufacturing has shown signs of growth, and the construction sector is performing well. The MPC has revised its growth projections for the first and second quarters of 2026-27 to 6.9% and 7%, respectively. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Committee decided to maintain a neutral stance after a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic conditions and the overall economic outlook.

The RBI has forecast retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) at 2.1% for 2025-26, which is below its benchmark rate of 4%. Projections for the first two quarters of the next financial year were revised to 4% and 4.2%, respectively, from the previous forecast of 3.9% and 4%. Full-year projections have not been made because of the impending base year revision of the series for Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the CPI. While the composition of the new CPI and GDP series is likely to have implications for future projections, it will not directly affect economic activities. There are positive takeaways from the lower weightage for food items in the new CPI, the trade agreement with the European Union (EU), the reduction in tariffs by the US, and the government's capital expenditure thrust. However, Malhotra noted that external headwinds have intensified since the last MPC meeting, making caution a policy imperative.

Strong growth and low inflation prompt the central bank to maintain *status quo* on the policy rate

By proposing a framework which would compensate banking customers for losses of up to Rs 25,000 incurred in small-value fraudulent transactions, the central bank has taken a welcome decision. It has also announced a discussion paper on measures to enhance safety in digital payments. Steps are being initiated to increase production and employment in the country by doubling collateral-free MSME loans, from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh. This is intended to help micro-enterprises. The proposal to allow banks to lend to real estate infrastructure trusts (REITs) may give a fillip to commercial real estate and create more employment. The relaxation in norms for branch expansion for select Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) is also expected to create jobs.

AI in policing: Safety with surveillance risks

Karnataka's decision to invest Rs 67.26 crore in an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven social media analytics system marks a decisive shift in how the state seeks to police the digital public square. The system will monitor content on platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, X, and Instagram, flagging hate speech, terrorism, and child kidnapping rumours at a time when traditional policing tools have failed to keep pace with the speed, scale, and virality of online misinformation. The software claims not merely to fact-check but also to trace the origin of such content, helping authorities to target those habitually spreading misinformation. In an age where a single post can ignite communal tensions within minutes, the logic behind adopting technology is difficult to dispute. AI can process volumes of data far beyond human capacity, enabling faster intervention before online provocations spill onto the streets. For a state that has repeatedly witnessed social media-fuelled flashpoints, such early-warning capabilities could save lives and prevent damage.

However, this technological leap comes with serious concerns. Continuous monitoring inevitably raises questions of privacy and proportionality. Besides, AI algorithms often struggle with sarcasm, local dialects, or cultural nuances, risking 'false positives' where harmless posts are flagged as threats, leading to legal harassment. These anxieties are sharpened by the Governor's recent decision to reserve the Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill for Presidential assent, citing its vague definitions and potential to suppress legitimate dissent. An AI system trained on ambiguous legal standards risks amplifying those flaws, converting poor legislative drafting into automated overreach.

Without strong legal guardrails, Karnataka's AI-driven social media monitoring could lead to overreach

Globally, Karnataka is not an outlier. The United Kingdom uses AI tools to monitor online hate and predict offline unrest. Singapore deploys algorithmic systems under its Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act to identify coordinated misinformation and compel platform corrections. The United States uses AI primarily for national security, while the European Union's Artificial Intelligence Act classifies such tools as "high-risk", permitting them only under strict safeguards. Even Ukraine, confronting hybrid warfare, relies on AI to counter hostile disinformation campaigns. However, it should be remembered that technology is not the danger; unchecked power is. While AI can assist policing, it cannot replace constitutional restraint, transparent oversight, and robust prosecution. Karnataka's experiment will succeed not by how much it monitors, but by how carefully it governs those who wield the technology. Without clear legal guardrails and independent accountability, this measure risks becoming a double-edged sword that adversely impacts the citizens it intends to protect, fraying the threads of the democratic fabric.

POLICY RETREAT

A steep price for the tariff wins

Short-term concessions in the trade deal with the US risk undermining India's economic interests and strategic autonomy

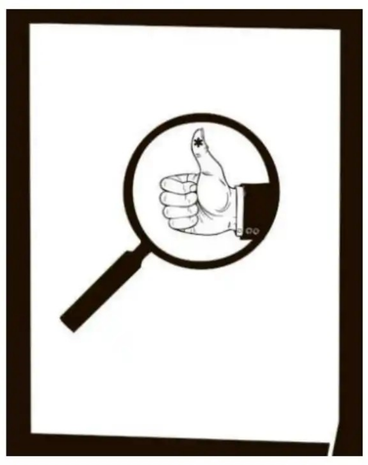
JAGDISH RATTANANI

Whichever way you spin this, it should be clear that India has bowed to the diktats of the United States in return for a trade agreement that eases punitive tariffs on India but also barters away the nation's long-term interests and compromises the much-vaunted strategic autonomy that has been the centrepiece of the Indian policy framework for a long time. Not every detail of what was called the "interim agreement regarding reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade" between the two nations is known. But what is known, including the circumstances surrounding the deal, the manner of its announcement, the language of the joint statement and the connected White House executive order, indicates that India has shifted some long-held positions, and to that extent, this is not a deal between two equals.

The US high-handedness stretched to simple courtesies like the timing of the release of the agreed statement. Trump announced the broad agreement on his social media platform, Truth Social, on February 2, days ahead of the official release by both nations, on February 6/7. The Indian government's announcement of the joint statement on PIB is timestamped February 7, 4.29 am IST, an unconventional hour that presented as a US-led announcement working to US time zones. If Nehru told us famously that "when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom", we may say that the deal marks a literal and metaphorical reversal of that dawn, because as India slept, the US closed a deal that snatches away India's right to decide its goals, its preferences, and its trade partners.

Yet, the optics, the timings or the self-styled "weave" of the US administration, devoid as Trump and team are of diplomatic niceties, mark only the surface irritants of a deeper loss that India will have to come to terms with over time. A tighter embrace with the US on onerous terms, particularly but not limited to the food and the agri sector, carries the risk of a longer-term ecosystem change that may well be irreversible and forces India on a path that will make many in the country very uncomfortable. The RSS and its groups will also not be comfortable with what has transpired, as can be seen from the statement of the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, an RSS affiliate, that there should be no route open for genetically modified (GM) related products to enter the country.

The Trumpian style of forced deal-making and the US's ways of the Wild West may pass with time, but the implications of this trade deal will continue to exact a price on India long after. Compromises for the short-term inevitably bring disaster for the long term.



As farmer groups raise voices of protest against the opening of the agri sector to US imports, the nation has been assured that the interests of farmers, the MSME sector, dairy, handlooms, and handicrafts will remain protected under the new deal, and that no GM crops will enter India as a part of the deal. But consider that the 'no-GM' imports claim holds by a thin thread – for example, dried distillers' grains, or DDGs for animal feed, which feature in the first bullet of the trade agreement as announced, come mostly from GM crops.

DDGs, a by-product of ethanol production from corn, add nutritional value in animal feed, but can it be claimed that the GM "quality" is erased after the heavy processing the corn goes through as ethanol is extracted? There is no consensus that the transgenic nature is eliminated in the processing. DDGs are used in feeding cattle, dairy cows, swine, and some poultry, which opens a route for a GM-linked product to enter the dairy chain. Further, if this is not a red line for India, then how long can India hold out on other points, say dairy, on which the US has been pushing, much like it has on DDGs?

The fine print

Do note that India's position against milk imports (which is not part of this deal) is seen by the US as a Foreign Trade Barrier. In the Indian view, dairy must only be from animals that are not given blood meals or feeds containing internal organs or tissue of ruminant or porcine, but the US holds that this view lacks a "discernible animal health or human health justification". The pressure on dairy from the US will not go away but will likely increase over time, now that India has opened a window. In this light, the statement in the trade agreement that "India also agrees to address long-standing non-tariff barriers to the trade in US food and agricultural products" indicates the nature of the trap that India has walked into.

Equally problematic is the statement that within six months India must determine "with a view towards a positive outcome... whether US-developed or international standards, including testing requirements, are acceptable for the purposes of US exports entering the Indian market in identified sectors." The executive order issued by Trump lowering tariffs on India also puts in place a committee that "shall monitor whether India resumes directly or indirectly importing Russian Federation oil", with the threat of punitive duties coming back if it is determined that India has not stopped or has resumed buying Russian oil.

None of this should keep India comfortable. The government has, of course, gone on the offensive in defending the deal, but it is unlikely that the nation will accept these terms in *toto*. It would be appropriate for the government not to oversell the deal, as the commerce minister Piyush Goyal tried in his press conference. Prudence would be to leave room for some backtracking in the light of evolving public opinion.

(The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Back to the old school

Revisiting my school after decades, I found both change and continuity

N RAMA RAO

It is amazing that the high school building where I studied several decades ago remains intact even today. It was the tallest school structure in South Chennai in those days. Every time I pass by the school, I proudly point it out to anybody accompanying me—whether it is a taxi driver, a relative or a friend—and exclaim, "Hey! That is my school." In the absence of class reunions in the past, I had hardly any opportunity to visit my *alma mater* all these years.

Recently, out of sheer curiosity, I made up my mind to see the interiors of the school. As I stepped into the main entrance, pleasant memories of my school days came rushing back. Several changes that had taken place during the course of nearly seven decades were evident all around. The small room where the water boy once supplied water from big mud pots has given way to a canteen. The lowly desks and planks in the classrooms have been replaced by posh chairs and tables.

As I entered the classroom of my final year in the school, the walls seemed to echo the verses of Goldsmith and Wordsworth, the essays of Hazlitt and Wells, and the "selections" from *Raghuvamsa* and *Thirukkural*. I could vividly recall the engaging manner in which our professor taught Shakespeare's plays. The mighty blackboard has been replaced by a whiteboard. This reminded me of our mathematics teacher, Ananda Rao, affectionately referred to by students as 'Pythagoras'. He would neatly write theorems and solutions with a piece of chalk on the blackboard, explaining every step in his distinctive style.

The headmaster's room, which we once dreaded, still had—as in the past—pictures of gods and goddesses on the wall. There were, however, a number of additions: a computer on the headmaster's desk; group photographs of students and portraits of leaders on the wall; and trophies and awards won by the school displayed in a showcase.

The staff had completely changed, as expected. Our burly headmaster, with his white turban and close coat, was no more. Seated in the headmaster's *gaddi* was a smart young man dressed in a shirt and trousers. The cane on the table was conspicuous by its absence.

Keeping pace with the times, the school has turned into a co-educational institution.

While going around in search of old familiar faces, I came across a frail figure. It was Arumugam, the peon, who—with his prominent moustache—had been popular in our days.

On the day of my visit, he had also come to the school to meet his son, who is now working there as a teacher. He hoped that his son would one day head the school. I was happy and proud to learn from the headmaster that, over the course of its long existence, the school has produced several eminent citizens who have won international acclaim.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't punish vendors for State's failure

I refer to 'Vendor livelihoods lost in transition' (Feb 10). The ongoing eviction of street vendors in Bengaluru highlights a serious failure of governance and basic human sensitivity. The administrative transition from BBMP to the Greater Bengaluru Authority has resulted in fear, harassment, and loss of livelihood for thousands of vendors who depend on daily earnings. While orderly streets are necessary, punishing vendors for the State's failure to survey, issue identity cards, and notify vending zones is unjust. The law protects street vendors from eviction without due process, and ignoring these safeguards violates their fundamental rights. A city that calls itself progressive must ensure development doesn't come at the cost of dignity and livelihood of its most vulnerable workers.
Kavita Tiwari, Bengaluru

Shifting global education

Regarding 'Why the UAE is on students' radar' (Feb 10), a quiet shift in global education choices is evident. As visa uncertainty and policy reversals plague traditional destinations, students prioritise predictability over prestige. The UAE's appeal lies in regulatory clarity, post-study work pathways, and long-term stability – factors that matter to first-generation international students. Policies like university-sponsored visas and Golden Residence permits reduce anxiety around futures. This trend should serve as a wake-up call to established education hubs: talent flows where systems are transparent and humane.
Saisha Verma, Bengaluru

Check illegal mining

Apropos '18 killed in explosion at illegal coal mine in Meghalaya' (Feb 6), the tragic event exemplifies the unsafe working conditions and exploitation of labour that have claimed lives over the years. Many people take up such work due to a lack of safe alternatives and poor financial conditions. Despite repeated accidents, illegal mining continues with no strict measures taken. Authorities should take a sterner approach to providing safer work options, preventing such tragedies from recurring.
Rupshali Ganguly, Bengaluru

Rising Nepal

With reference to 'England escape Nepal shock' (Feb 10), Nepal cricket's inspiring rise shows they're a serious competitor, not a pushover. The team fought till the end, nearly pulling off a historic upset. Their performance reflected hard work, teamwork, and belief – signs of a growing cricketing nation. Even in defeat, Nepal won admiration worldwide, demonstrating they can challenge top-ranked sides. Such matches highlight the growth of associate nations, bringing fresh energy to the game. I hope Nepal continues to progress and achieve greater success.
Ankit Jha, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

The (General Naravane's) autobiography has not yet been published in any format, neither in print nor in digital form... If some people are circulating it, that's copyright violation and appropriate legal action will be taken. It is thus clear that, in line with his conduct and character, Rahul Gandhi has once again spread lies before the nation.
Ravi Shankar Prasad, BJP leader

Pardon me for a moment while I digress from my digression.
Guy Branum

TO BE PRECISE

IN PERSPECTIVE

Smartphone nation: Connected and consumed

The "digital debt" is here, as excessive screen use affects the health and societal well-being of India's youth

ANANTHAPADMANABHAN

For decades, our developmental North Star was a singular, binary mission: bridge the "digital divide". We endeavoured to ensure that a signal reached from the high-rises of our cities to the furthest reaches of the hinterland. With nearly 970 million internet connections and smartphones in over 85% of our households, we have achieved connectivity once deemed a pipe dream.

Yet, as the Economic Survey 2025-26 poignantly suggests, this victory has arrived with a high-interest price. Having finally closed the divide, we are now grappling with a "digital debt" – a profound toll on our collective mental and physical health. For those aged 15 to 24, life is no longer merely assisted by a screen; it is mediated by one. When a generation spends five to seven hours a day in the digital slipstream, "screen time" becomes a reductive euphemism for the fundamental alteration of the human spirit. With young Indians increasingly reporting depression and anxiety, we are witnessing a quiet crisis of the soul rapidly manifesting as a crisis of the body.

This biological erosion is where the debt begins to compound. Late-night scrolling is not a benign habit; it is a physiological disruption. The blue light emitted by our devices acts as a chemical "hijacker", suppressing melatonin and tricking the brain into a state of perpetual noon.

This resulting "sleep debt" acts as a lead indicator for a host of metabolic and cardiovascular ailments, transforming a personal tech habit into a national economic vulnerability. If our future workforce is chronically underslept and mentally depleted by their mid-twenties, India's "demographic dividend" – our greatest strategic asset – could transform into a demographic liability.

While the digital economy fuels nearly 12% of our national income, the central question of our era remains: what is the net gain if those profits are swallowed by the rising costs of a healthcare system treating a burnt-out generation?

Recognising the weight of this liability, the State is finally shifting from passive advisory to systemic intervention. The staggering 32 lakh calls to the Tele-MANAS helpline and the increased budget for NIMHANS suggest that mental health is finally being treated as core infrastructure. From the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act to the proposed digital wellness curriculum, we are seeing the birth of a new digital hygiene that mirrors the physical education movements of the last century. However, even the most robust policy cannot solve a sensory crisis in isolation. We must look to international models that prioritise the tangible over the virtual.

South Korea's Rescue Camps use manual crafts to recalibrate dopamine loops, while Scandinavia's *friluftsliv* (open-air life) ensures the physical environment remains a child's primary teacher. These nations recognise that the best way to fight a screen is to offer a world more captivating than a pixelated one.

We must also address the safety-by-design philosophy. Like the UK's regulations against features like "infinite scroll", India must demand that the architects of the digital world prioritise neurological health over engagement metrics.

A cultural imperative

Ultimately, we cannot simply tell our youth to log off into a vacuum. In the suffocating density of our urban centres, a smartphone is often the only window to a wider world where concrete replaces canopy and algorithm-driven scrolls offer the only accessible escape from the claustrophobia of stagnant, vertical living. To demand they put the phone down without offering parks, sports clubs, or art spaces is a hollow directive. The establishment of offline youth hubs is not just a policy recommendation; it is a cultural necessity – a way to build analogue sanctuaries for a generation that has forgotten how to be bored.

This shift is already taking shape at the grassroots. In rural pockets, digital-fast movements have enabled siren-cued smartphone bans between 7 pm and 9 pm to reclaim social capital. A similar resistance is brewing across the high-rise clusters of our cities.

Digital access is a right, but digital wellness is a necessity. The wires we laid to connect a billion people were only the first step; the next step is building the habits that keep those people healthy. As we pave the high-speed highways of our future, we must ensure we leave ourselves places to park, rest, and breathe. The real question isn't whether the digital world is a useful escape – it's whether we are building a physical world that we feel the need to escape from in the first place.

(The author is an independent writer)

Act before the climate does, or pay in heat, health and livelihoods

ROHAN QURASHI

Earlier this year, the president of the world's largest economy and the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases (GHGs) announced the United States' withdrawal from 66 global organisations and treaties, many affiliated with the United Nations, arguing that continued participation was "contrary to the interests of the US".

Among these exits, the most striking was the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the parent treaty adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in June 1992, which has long served as the backbone of international climate cooperation and aims to bring nations together to fight against the climate crisis. The decision drew sharp global opprobrium, particularly from the developing countries, where climate vulnerability is highest and historical responsibility for emissions is lowest.

More important than the withdrawal itself, however, is what such moves signal. When the world's major economies step back from climate responsibility, they shape the global response to climate change. The transition away from fossil fuels slows, carbon-intensive growth remains the norm, and climate action is repeatedly deferred. For countries like India, this continued dependence on fossil fuels is already proving costly – visible in rising heatwaves, stressed agriculture, and mounting climate pressure.

India today has emerged as one of the world's most climate-vulnerable regions. One of the gravest threats it faces is extreme heat. Heatwaves are not new to India, but their intensity has increased sharply over the past few decades. According to *The Lancet Countdown* report, nearly one-third of the heatwave days experienced by India in 2024 were attributable to human-induced climate change.

The economic consequences of this rising heat are severe. Heat exposure in 2024 alone resulted in the loss of an estimated 247 billion potential labour hours – most of them in agriculture and construction – leading to economic losses of around Rs 194 billion. For a country where a large share of employment remains informal and outdoor-based, extreme heat is not merely an environmental concern but a direct threat to livelihoods.

The impacts of heatwaves, however, extend far beyond the economy and agriculture. Extreme heat overwhelms the body's ability to regulate temperature, increasing the risk of dehydration, heatstroke, cardiovascular stress, and even death -- particularly among the elderly, infants, and outdoor workers. During 2024-25, as many as 152 record-breaking extreme weather events were recorded across 61 countries, with life-threatening heat events becoming more intense than previously projected.

As Jeremy Farrar, Assistant Director-General at the World Health Organisation, noted, the climate crisis is fundamentally a health crisis, where "every fraction of a degree of warming costs lives and livelihoods." The Lancet report also finds that heat-related mortality has increased by 23% globally since the 1990s, with an average of nearly 546,000 deaths each year.

These figures underscore the immense health, social, and economic costs of climate change. As Dr Marina Romanello of University College London, who led the Lancet report's analysis, observed, the destruction of lives and livelihoods will continue to escalate unless the world decisively ends its dependence on fossil fuels.

Yet India remains deeply reliant on fossil fuels, despite progress in renewable energy deployment. According to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Energy Statistics in India 2025, coal's share in total energy generation rose to 79%, or 16,906 petajoules, in 2023-24, nearly two percentage points higher than the previous year. Coal has consistently accounted for over 70% of India's total energy production since 2014-15.

The health costs of this dependence are stark. *The Lancet* report estimates that fossil fuel-derived air pollution claimed 1.72 million lives in India – an increase of 38% since 2010. Fossil fuels accounted for 752,000 of these deaths in 2022 alone, while coal was responsible for 394,000 deaths, primarily from emissions linked to power generation. In India, coal continues to account for 46% of total energy supply and 72% of electricity generation, while renewables contribute just 2% to energy supply and 10% to electricity generation – highlighting the slow pace of structural transition.

But this is not India's challenge alone. Globally, as human-driven warming rises from 1C above pre-industrial levels toward 1.5 degrees C this decade and potentially 2 degrees C, which many scientists predict could occur around mid-century unless governments make rapid cuts to emissions from oil, gas, and coal, temperature extremes are expected to intensify sharply. One study estimates that if the 2 degrees C threshold is crossed, the number of people exposed to extreme heat will rise from 1.54 billion in 2010 (23% of the global population) to 3.79 billion by 2050, or 41% of the projected world population. Countries at highest risk include India, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Bangladesh.

If fossil fuel dependence continues at the current pace, no part of the world will be able to escape the worsening heat. India, despite contributing a small fraction to historical carbon emissions, is bearing a disproportionate share of the burden. This reality highlights the limits of national efforts alone, even as India takes steps like rescheduling work hours, strengthening heat adaptation policies, and investing in heat-resilient infrastructure. These measures are necessary, but they are not sufficient in isolation.

Climate change is a global threat that demands collective action. Reducing dependence on fossil fuels must be central, both to slow warming and protect vulnerable populations. Major economies, bearing the historical responsibility, must lead, consistent with the Kyoto Protocol.

A fair and effective response requires both ambitious global emissions reductions and support for adaptation in the countries most affected. Only then can we hope to protect lives, livelihoods, and the future of the planet.

(The writer is a research student at St Stephen's College, Delhi)

The end of the last remaining US-Russia nuclear treaty has opened the door to an expanded American arsenal and a renewed global arms race

DAVID E SANGER AND WILLIAM J BROAD

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Newly unbound, Trump weighs more nuclear arms, tests

In the five days since the last remaining nuclear treaty between the United States and Russia expired, statements by administration officials have made two things clear: Washington is actively weighing the deployment of more nuclear weapons, and it is also likely to conduct a nuclear test of some kind.

Both steps would reverse nearly 40 years of stricter nuclear control by the United States, which has reduced or kept steady the number of weapons it has loaded into silos, bombers and submarines. President Donald Trump would be the first president since Ronald Reagan to increase them again, if he chose to do so. And the last time the United States conducted a nuclear test was 1992, though Trump said last year that he wanted to resume the detonations "on an equal basis" with China and Russia.

So far, the statements from the Trump administration have been vague. It has said that it is looking at a variety of scenarios that might bolster the arsenal by reusing nuclear arms now in storage, and that Trump has instructed his aides to resume testing. But no one has specified how many weapons may be deployed or what kind of tests could be conducted. The details matter, and may determine whether the three big nuclear powers are headed to a new arms race, or whether Trump is trying to force the other powers into a three-way negotiation on a new treaty.

"It's all a bit mysterious," said Jill Hruby, a longtime nuclear expert who, until last year, ran the National Nuclear Security Agency, a part of the Energy Department that designs, tests and manufactures American nuclear weapons. "It is very confusing what they are doing."

The indications started within hours of the expiration Thursday of New START, which limited the number of weapons that the United States and Russia could deploy to roughly 1,550 each. Trump turned down an offer from President Vladimir Putin of Russia for an informal extension of the 15-year treaty — which would not be legally binding — while both countries considered negotiating a successor treaty.

That same day, the State Department sent its undersecretary for arms control and international security, Thomas G DiNanno, to Geneva to address the Conference on Disarmament. The treaty, he complained in a speech, "placed unilateral constraints on the United States that were unacceptable." And he noted that in Trump's first term the president had pulled out of two previous treaties with Russia — the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty and the Open Skies Treaty — because of Russian violations.

He repeated a familiar case, which many Democrats in the national security world have also voiced, that the New START treaty failed to cover whole new classes of nuclear weapons that Russia and China are developing, and that any new treaty would have to place limits on Beijing, which has the fastest-growing nuclear force on the globe.

Then he noted that the United States was now free "to strengthen deterrence on behalf of the American people." The United States will "complete our ongoing nuclear modernisation programmes," he said — a reference to hundreds of billions of dollars being spent on new silos, new submarines and new bombers — and noted that Washington "retains nondeployed nuclear capability that can be used to address the emerging security environment, if directed by the president."

One option, he noted, is "expanding current forces" and "developing and fielding new theatre-range nuclear forces," the shorter-range nuclear weapons that Russia has deployed in abundance. (New START covered only "strategic" weapons that can be launched halfway around the world.)

One imminent surge centres on the nation's Ohio-class submarines. Each of the 14 underwater craft have 24 tubes that can launch nuclear-tipped missiles. To comply with the New START limits, the Navy disabled four tubes on each sub. Now, relieved of those restrictions, plans are moving ahead to reopen the tubes — allowing the loading of four more missiles onto each sub. In all, that move alone will add up to hundreds of more warheads that can threaten the nation's adversaries.

It is possible, of course, that such deployments are intended only to push other nuclear powers into negotiations, a familiar form of nuclear poker during the Cold War. But it is also possible that Russia and China decide they would rather expand their forces.

China has, until now, shown little interest in arms control, at least until its forces approximate the size of Washington's and Moscow's. As Franklin Miller and Eric Edelman, two nuclear strategists who served in past Republican administrations, noted in Foreign Affairs last year, China "regards any willingness to engage in arms control as a sign of weakness, and it views the transparency and verification process that would presumably undergird such an accord as intrusive and akin to espionage."

In his speech in Geneva, DiNanno also gave the first detailed explanation by a Trump administration official for what the president meant last year when he ordered a restart of nuclear arms testing. Trump made his carefully worded "on an equal basis" statement just before his October meeting with President Xi Jinping of China. In an interview last month with *The New York Times*, Trump said he had spoken at length with Xi on nuclear issues. But he gave no details.

Initially, some American nuclear experts outside the government saw Trump's remarks as meaning that the United States planned the kind of powerful underground nuclear tests that were frequent symbols of the tit-for-tat Cold War competition a half century ago. The tests were detonated underground, sending shock waves radiating into the Earth's crust and from there ricocheting around the globe. The blasts were easy to detect.

And while the United States, Russia and China have suspended those kinds of tests — observing the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty even though the US Senate has never ratified it — North Korea ignored it. Between 2006 and 2017 it conducted six underground tests, shattering the hopes for a global moratorium.

The testing ban, which took effect in 1996, forbids tests that produce any explosive force whatsoever, no matter how minuscule. It is called a "zero-yield" treaty.

But some experts have long had a different view of Trump's remarks, interpreting them as calling for relatively small tests that would release no detectable shock waves. The absence of earthshaking explosions make these tests nearly impossible to detect.

In his Geneva talk, DiNanno made clear that the Trump administration believed that Russia and China had already conducted such tests, and he suggested that the president's call for testing "on an equal basis" might allow the United States to do the same.

DiNanno said the US government knew that China had conducted "nuclear explosive tests" it sought to conceal. He specifically pointed to one on June 22, 2020, toward the end of Trump's first term.

The main global network that seeks to monitor adherence to the test ban said in a recent statement that it had detected no test explosion on that date. And US officials say that over the past five years, US intelligence experts have debated whether or not the Chinese government actually conducted the test. But DiNanno expressed no doubt.

"DiNanno's comments surprised me," said Terry C Wallace, a former director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory who long studied China's programme of nuclear experimentation. "They had no caveats" rooted in the field's uncertainties, he said.

The New York Times

Bengaluru's first computer

M B PRANESH

Sitting in a glass room on the first floor of the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum is an IBM 1401 computer – a cluster of machines consisting of a large central processing unit attached to input and output devices. These include card-punching and card-reading machines, tape drives and a printer. The museum has displayed it since 1989, by which time this second-generation, transistor-based machine had already become obsolete. Panels accompanying the exhibit explain the role of each component in processing data and producing output, making it both eye-catching and educative. One panel notes that the machine was used at the Karnataka Government computer centre and was donated to the museum in 1989.

This computer is of historical significance. Purchased by the state government in 1971, it was intended to computerise treasury accounts. Receipt and expenditure transactions from district treasuries were copied into coding sheets and transported to a data centre in Bengaluru. There, a large team of data-entry operators punched each transaction into cards. Another team verified the accuracy of these cards using verification machines. The data was then read by card-reading machines and transferred onto large magnetic tapes, which were sent to the computer room. Computer programs and data were fed into the IBM 1401, which analysed the transactions as per the program and generated summaries required for accounting purposes.

The state government soon recognised that the computer had potential uses in other departments and public undertakings. A special officer to help such organisations identify areas where the computer could help them deliver services faster and more efficiently to citizens. Once a suitable use was identified, staff with the aptitude for such work were selected and sent for training. Initially, departments used the computer centre and later acquired their own systems.

As a young man of 25 years, I had the privilege of working as that Special Officer during 1971-1972, before being transferred to another state. After 54 years, I was elated to see the computer again the other day, displayed with dignity in the Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum.

The purchase of the computer in 1971 was a visionary step by the state government. However, it took considerable time for the objectives to be realised, largely because the technology of the 1970s was inadequate for the purposes envisaged by the state government. In subsequent decades, computers became faster and more convenient to use. Advances in communication technology made it possible to transmit data instantaneously over long distances, and the advent of the Internet marked a decisive turning point. The state government departments and undertakings upgraded their systems. After nearly 18 years of service, the first computer was finally retired and donated to the museum for educational purposes.

The arrival of computers created new jobs such as data entry operators, programmers and system analysts. Young people in Bengaluru showed an acumen for learning these skills, leading to the establishment of colleges and training institutions. Supportive government policies, technology parks and a favourable investment climate attracted both Indian and foreign companies to the city. This in turn further increased the demand and encouraged the establishment of more colleges and training institutions. All this resulted in a phenomenal expansion in the availability of trained manpower. It is now estimated that Bengaluru has over two million computer professionals. The city is now recognised as one of the largest software centres in the world. These new jobs have brought prosperity to Bangalore. Karnataka is now counted among the states in India with the highest per capita income. Bengaluru, which was known as a pensioner's paradise in the last century, is now known as the Silicon City.

The government computer was truly the harbinger of the computer revolution that Bengaluru witnessed in the decades that followed. The computer, which is now housed in the Visvesvaraya Museum, was an educational exhibit in 1989. More than 36 years have passed since then. It is time to treat it as a historical exhibit, as the computer is from the time the transformation of Bengaluru began.

San Jose, in the US' Silicon Valley, has a museum devoted to the history of the computer industry. It would be fitting for Bengaluru to establish a similar museum to honour and celebrate the milestones that shaped its transformation into the Silicon City of India.

(The writer is a retired IAS officer, Tamil Nadu cadre)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1976

CM promises to go into charges against Minister

Bangalore, February 10
Chief Minister Devaraj Urs assured the State Assembly today that he would look into the allegations made against Social Welfare Minister N Rachaiah during the debate on the Governor's address by Mr. B. Puttaswamaiah (Cong-O) and also the Minister's explanation before taking a decision in the matter. Mr. Urs added that if there was a *prima facie* case, he would deal with it in the manner in which it should be dealt with. Speaker Nagarathnamma said she would give a ruling tomorrow.

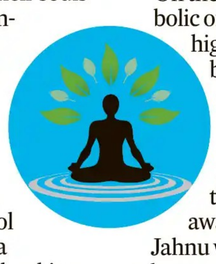
25 YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 2001

Troops take positions at Srinagar police control room

Srinagar, Feb 10
Security forces today took control of the Police Control Room, which was stormed by pro-Pakistan militants triggering a fierce gunbattle lasting more than 13 hours that left eight policemen and two ultras dead. Six policemen were also injured in the attack by four Lashkar-e-Taiba and Al Umar Mujahideen militants at Batmaloo at around 7:30 p.m. last evening, Inspector General of Police Ashok K Bhan said. However, Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah told PTI that two militants were killed.

OASIS | S RADHA PRATHI

Impudence should be impounded



No matter how talented, beautiful and accomplished a person may be, he or she cannot be considered to be the greatest unless and until the psyche of the person is cleansed of all negative qualities. While it is relatively easy to be truthful, honest and compassionate, it can be pretty hard for us to let go of our ego. We often become arrogant because we are adulated for the qualities, we take pride in.

The story of Ganga, which appears in the *Ramayana*, explores the route to gaining a pristine personality. The 60,000 sons of King Sagara were reduced to ashes for wrongly accusing Rishi Kapila of theft. Garuda advised the bereaved father that if their ashes were washed with the waters of the celestial river Ganga, then their souls would be liberated. Four generations later Bhageeratha managed to bring Ganga down from the heavens with his sincere penance and perseverance. When the mighty river came down in torrents lord Shiva was commissioned to control her. Accordingly, Lord Shiva opened his matted locks to the skies and captured Ganga. Not even one drop of water was able to escape from the cosmic container. Many people who are apprised of this incident think that the matted locks were so large.

On the contrary, the incident is symbolic of the fact that audacity of the highest degree can be contained by the humble matted locks of a truly strong person of integrity. A suitably chastened Ganga was released after the fervent prayers of Bhageeratha. As she flowed, she washed away the sacrificial site of sage Jahnu without compunction. The tale mentions that Jahnu drank the river dry and Bhageeratha had to go on his knees before Jahnavi was freed from his ears. The story sounds farfetched when we wonder how a sage could have drunk the river. A little introspection will reveal that, the earnest sage was piqued by her unwarranted playfulness. He wanted her to realise that he could not be taken for granted and hence the exercise. These two experiences made the celestial Ganga to respect the earth she occupied. She gained enough grace, fortitude and compassion and came to be called mother Ganga.

Ganga had the good fortune to be corrected to achieve greatness. We may not be so fortunate. Hence we will do well to stop the ugly head of impudence from rising.

Assam Cong files FIR against Sarma; CM files defamation suit

GUWAHATI, DHNS: Amid a row over a deleted AI video, in which Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma was shown firing at two Muslims, the Opposition Congress in the poll-bound state on Tuesday lodged an FIR alleging that the same was "highly provocative, communal" and would lead to social disharmony.

The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee demanded the immediate arrest of Himanta.

Sarma, on the other hand, filed a Rs 500 crore defamation suit against AICC general secretary and in-charge of Assam Jitendra Singh, Chief of Assam Congress Gaurav Gogoi, former Chattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghael for their recent allegation that the CM's family owns 4,000 acres of land across Assam.

A team of Assam Congress led by two MLAs—Shivamani Bora and Diganta Barman—lodged the FIR at Dispur police station in Guwahati seeking legal action against Sarma. "The content in the video targetted a particular community in a highly provocative and communal tone, which will definitely lead to a social disharmony among the people," the FIR said.

Left parties move SC against Sarma

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Communist Party of India (Marxist) and a leader of the Communist Party of India (CPI) have filed a plea in the Supreme Court seeking action against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over his alleged comments targeting a particular community.

On Tuesday, advocate Nizam Pasha mentioned the matter before a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, seeking urgent listing of the plea.

He sought urgent intervention of the court in relation to what he described as disturbing speeches made by the sitting Chief Minister of Assam, including a recent video posted online in which Sarma is allegedly depicted shooting at members of a particular community. He claimed that complaints had been filed in this regard, but no FIR had been registered.

The bench, however, remarked: "The problem is that as and when elections come, a part of the elections is fought inside the Supreme Court. That is the problem. We will find out and give a date."

Bengal: Final voters' list to be published on February 28

KOLKATA, PTI: The Election Commission on Tuesday revised the schedule for the SIR exercise in West Bengal, announcing that the state's final electoral rolls will be published on February 28.

In a letter to the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal, the Election Commission said the decision was taken in compliance with the Supreme Court's February 9 order.

Earlier, the final voters' list of West Bengal, where elections are slated to be held after the completion of the exercise, was slated to be published on February 14.

Farmers' union plans protest against India-US trade deal

Tikait raises concern over subsidised US goods in market

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Slamming the India-US trade deal, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait said on Tuesday that his organisation would protest against the agreement.

Describing it as a one-sided deal, he accused the government of lying about protecting farmers' interests. He called the deal dangerous for India and stated that it was unacceptable to Indian farmers.

The farmer leader announced that farmers would burn effigies of US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in villages across the country. He also extended support to the 'General Strike' called for February 12.

Expressing fears that the US might dump subsidised goods in the Indian market, Tikait warned, "Our farmers will not be able to sell their produce".

RJD Lok Sabha member Sudhakar Singh opposed the proposed Seeds Bill, claiming it would force farmers to buy expensive seeds."What is the reason for rushing the Seeds Bill?

Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait during the Kisan Union Farmers' Dialogue on Seed Bill, Electricity Bill and India-US Free Trade Agreement in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

It is only because the trade deal talks about removing non-tariff barriers affecting US food and agricultural products," he alleged.

Sudhakar Singh also demanded that the Seeds Bill, the Pesticide Management Bill, and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill be referred to a Parliamentary committee.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh highlighted the sharp increase in US tariffs on Indian goods—from around 3% last year to 18 %.

"Opening the market for agriculture is like a death sentence for farmers," he said.

Both MPs asserted that the Opposition would continue to strongly oppose the India-US trade deal in Parliament, which is currently in session.

In a separate statement, the BKU questioned the details of the India-US trade deal, saying they remained "hidden behind a veil of secrecy."

The outfit also criticised the India-EU trade deal, arguing that it goes against farmers' interests. Despite low tariffs, Indian agricultural exports would not gain easy access to European markets due to their strict health and food safety standards.

The BKU further opposed the draft Seed Bill, the Pesticide Management Bill, and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill.

It's a one-sided deal, says Opposition

NEW DELHI, DHNS/PTI

Opposition on Tuesday pounded on the Modi government over the India-US trade deal, with senior MPs claiming that it looked like a "pre-committed purchase agreement" that overturns every principle of reciprocity and a "one-sided" deal that hurts the agriculture sector, as imports will hit farming.

Initiating the general discussion on the Union Budget in Lok Sabha, senior Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the government's claim that it is a "better deal" than China, Vietnam, and other Asian countries does not stand, as no East Asian economy has agreed to "deliberately dilute" its trade surplus with the US through guaranteed purchase commitments.

Asking how one could speak of a "reciprocal tariff" of 18% on one side and 0% on the other, he said, "It looks less like a free trade arrangement and more like a pre-committed purchase agreement that overturns every principle of reciprocity."

He said the government has surprisingly promised to buy $500 billion worth of American goods over five years at a time when India's total bilateral trade with the US stands at roughly $130 billion and a trade surplus of nearly $45 billion.

BJP MP Kangana Ranaut walks past as members who were suspended from the Lok Sabha, stage a protest at the Parliament premises, in New Delhi, on Tuesday. PTI

He also said Parliament has neither been told how farmers, MSMEs, and the domestic industry will be protected nor why India has "voluntarily surrendered" its negotiating power without securing proportional market access or policy space in return.

However, senior BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi described the Budget as "pragmatic, pro-people and balanced", as the it reflected the central government's "commitment, conviction and consistency" for the "welfare" of people and "overall growth" of the country.

Samajwadi Party floor leader Akhilesh Yadav said the trade deal with the US was "one-sided," and it will hurt the farming community as well as the prospects of the industry and push back the 'Made in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

Trinamool Congress' Abhishek Banerjee claimed that the Budget was draining the poor through taxation and inflation while rewarding the rich with concessions and privileges.

He said the trade deal with the US opens Indian markets to heavily subsidised American farm produce. "It may benefit American farmers, but it will depress prices, destroy competitiveness, and further marginalise Indian farmers. This is an abandonment of our annadata," he said.

SHASHI THAROOR
Congress MP

"No major economy has ever neutralised its own trade leverage in this manner. While the US continues to impose import tariffs of up to 18% on Indian exports, we have committed ourselves to lower tariffs to near-zero levels, open agriculture, dilute data localisation, soften intellectual-property safeguards, and even redirect strategic energy imports, especially away from Russia, to meet purchase targets. This is not strategic balancing; it is economic pre-emption.

India to keep buying cheapest crude oil: Govt

NEW DELHI, PTI: The government on Tuesday informed a parliamentary panel that India will continue to import crude oil from the countries where it is cheap and of the best quality, and the Indian oil companies will purchase oil considering the geopolitical situation and non-sanctioned sources.

This was conveyed by top officials of the ministries of External Affairs and Commerce to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, sources said.

Tharoor said it was an "extremely effective" meeting which lasted for over three hours and where 28 of the 30 members attended.

"The officials have responded to each and every question in great detail with confidence. It was an extremely effective meeting and an example of what the committees can do," he told reporters after the meeting.

Those who spoke to the MPs included Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Members of the Indian Youth Congress hold a placard depicting the cover of an unreleased book titled 'Four Stars of Destiny' by former Army chief General Manoj Mukund Naravane during a protest in New Delhi. PTI

Controversy over Naravane memoir status deepens

Author, publisher say book remains unpublished

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The face-off over the status of former Army Chief M M Naravane's controversial memoir took new turns on Monday, with both the author and the publisher insisting that the book remains unpublished.

Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, however, cited a 2023 tweet by Naravane announcing *Four Stars of Destiny* for pre-orders.

Speaking to reporters in Parliament, Gandhi said he believed the former Army Chief. "Either Mr Naravane is lying, or the publisher is speaking the truth. Both cannot be lying. It is inconvenient for the Prime Minister of India, so one has to decide who is telling the truth," he said, before Naravane responded.

In a late-night statement on Monday, Penguin Random House India said it holds the "sole publishing rights" to the book and clarified that it has not gone into publication. "No copies—in print or digital form—have been published, distributed, sold, or otherwise made available to the public," the publisher said.

It added that any copies in circulation, in whole or in part, in print or digital formats, constituted a violation of its copyright and warned of legal action against unauthorised dissemination.

On Tuesday, Naravane tweeted in apparent support of the publisher's position, saying, "This is the status of the book."

The Delhi Police registered a case in the matter on Monday.

On Tuesday, Penguin issued another statement explaining the publishing process.

It said that an announced book, a pre-order listing and a published book are not the same.

An announcement only indicates that a project is planned, while pre-orders—a standard industry practice—allow readers and retailers to place advance orders. "In both cases, the book is not yet published or available for sale," it said.

RAHUL GANDHI
Congress leader

"Hello friends. My book is available now. Just follow the link. Happy reading. Jai Hind." This is the tweet Mr Naravane has made. The point I am making is either Mr Naravane is lying, and I believe the (former) Army chief, I don't think he will lie, or Penguin is lying. Both cannot be telling the truth.

Assam final voter list out with 2.49 cr names; 2.43 lakh names deleted

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

The Election Commission on Tuesday released the final electoral rolls for poll-bound Assam, deleting 2.43 lakh names from the draft roll after a Special Revision (SR).

A statement from the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Assam, said the final rolls contain 2.49 crore electors, compared to 2.52 crore in the draft roll published on December 27. This marks a reduction of 0.97% (2,43,485 names).

Unlike the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) conducted in 12 other states and Union Territories, Assam carried out a Special Revision through door-to-door verification between November 22 and December 20 last year.

The SR did not require form-filling or document submission, though voters were allowed to file claims and objections between December 27 and January 22.

The draft roll after the SR listed 2,52,01,624 electors, reflecting a 1.35% increase over the previous final roll published in January 2025. The exercise recorded 7,86,841 additions and 4,47,196 deletions. Officials also identified 4,78,992 deceased electors, 5,23,680 shifted electors and 53,619 multiple entries. The Election Commission said these names would be processed for deletion or shifting only after formal applications during the claims and objections period.

The CEO's office said that voters can lodge appeals with district magistrates within 15 days and also approach the Chief Electoral Officer's office within 30 days.

IN NUMBERS

2,52,01,624 voters	Draft list
2,49,58,139 voters	Final list
2,43,485	Deleted names
4.78 lakh	Deceased
5.23 lakh	Shifted
53,619	Duplicate entries

Controversies

The SR in Assam was not without controversy, as Congress-led Opposition parties alleged that ruling BJP was trying to illegally delete or remove names of genuine voters, particularly Muslims. They approached the EC and even petitioned the Supreme Court seeking intervention. Congress state president Gaurav Gogoi accused BJP of resorting to "vote chori" to avert its "sure defeat" in Assembly polls.

Adding to the controversy, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said they sought to remove the names of the "Miyas"—a derogatory term used for Bengali-speaking Muslims. BJP leaders openly declared they would ensure that the names of those evicted from forests and government land (primarily Bengali-speaking Muslims) were struck off the rolls. Since 2021, when the BJP returned to power for a second term, thousands of Bengali-speaking Muslims have been evicted.

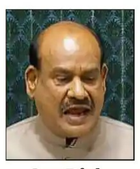
The SIR was not conducted in Assam as the NRC exercise remains incomplete.

Speaker Birla to stay away from House amid no-trust move

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Even as the notice of no-confidence against Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has been submitted to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, sources said Birla has decided not to enter the House or sit on the Speaker's chair until a motion to remove him from the post is taken up for discussion and voting. The matter is likely to be considered by March 9.

The move comes amid allegations that Birla acted in a "blatantly partisan" manner.



Om Birla

As per parliamentary rules, the Speaker should not occupy the chair while a motion against him is being discussed. However, Birla has decided not to attend proceedings starting Tuesday.

Although there is no such compulsion under Lok Sabha rules and procedures, Birla has voluntarily chosen not to go to the House, sources in the LS Secretariat said. "Efforts are being made by both the government and the Opposition to persuade him, but he remains firm on his decision and will not attend," the sources added.

There is speculation that the motion to remove the Speaker may be brought before the House on March 9, the first day of the second phase of the Budget Session. If introduced, the motion will require the support of at least 50 MPs. The Opposition's notice has the signatures of 119 MPs.

Birla has directed the Lok Sabha Secretary-General to review the no-confidence notice against him and take appropriate action. The notice, submitted by Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, invoked Article 94(c) of the Constitution, which provides for the removal of the Speaker.

Time to impeach Rahul, Cong from politics: BJP

The BJP on Tuesday slammed the Opposition for submitting a notice for moving a resolution to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from office, saying the time has come for India to "impeach" Rahul Gandhi and the Congress from politics, reports PTI from New Delhi.

"Those who have been impeached of their conscious ness are the ones who want to impeach all the constitutional posts of India," BJP national spokesperson Sambit Patra told reporters when asked about the opposition's notice.

The comments came after Opposition submitted a notice for moving a resolution to remove Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla from office.

SC issues notice on creamy layer in SC/ST quota

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a response from the Centre on pleas seeking a direction to lay down criteria for exclusion of the creamy layer of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from availing the benefits of reservation in admissions and public employment.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and N V Anjaria was hearing the petitions filed by O P Shukla and the Samta Andolan Samiti seeking enforcement of the landmark judgement of August 1, 2024, on reservation.

The apex court asked the Centre to file its response on the pleas and said that they will be taken up after some time.

The creamy layer principle was laid down in the famous Mandal Commission judgement in the Indra Sawhney case, and under the principle, the affluent people among OBCs were barred from taking quota benefits in admissions, jobs.

In a landmark verdict, a seven-judge constitution bench headed by the then Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, by a majority of 6:1, held that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes (SC) which form a socially heterogeneous class, for granting reservation for the uplift of castes that are socially more backward among them.

Justice B R Gavai (since retired) was also part of the majority opinion.

Ranveer gets ransom threat

MUMBAI, DHNS: Actor Ranveer Singh has received a threatening WhatsApp voice note demanding crores, following which the security around him has been beefed up.

Ranveer Singh

Singh received the threat on Monday. The police have beefed up security around Singh and his wife, Deepika Padukone.

Recently, an unidentified shooter had fired five rounds at filmmaker Rohit Shetty's residence in Juhu.

Lawrence Bishnoi gang member Shubham Lonkar, who has been absconding, purportedly took responsibility for the firing. Five men have been arrested in the case.

The threat to Singh comes in the wake of the successful reception of 'Dhurandhar', which is one of the biggest Box Office hits in recent times.

The police has not commented on the investigations.

BRAILLE TO BENCH

Kerala set to get first visually-challenged woman judge

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A 24-year-old woman from Kannur is set to become Kerala's first visually challenged judicial officer after clearing the Kerala Judicial Services Examination for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division).

Thanya Nathan C secured first rank in the maiden selection process for differently-abled candidates. Her selection was made possible by a Supreme Court order last year that ruled differently abled persons cannot be barred from serving as judicial officers.

Thanya Nathan C

Thanya, who has been practising as a lawyer for over a year, uses tools such as screen readers and dictation apps in her work. She hopes that the ongoing modernisation of courts through the e-courts initiative will make courtrooms more accessible for differently-abled.

"Despite being a junior lawyer, I have received much support in courtrooms over the past year. This gives me confidence that I can overcome my visual limitations in delivering justice. Dictation apps are already widely used in the judiciary," Thanya told *DH*.

Thanya completed her schooling in Kannur and pursued a five-year law course at Kannur University. Visually challenged since birth, she has relied on the Braille system for her studies. It was during her higher secondary years that she developed the desire to enter the legal field.

"I consider legal service a unique profession. The law is a powerful weapon for everyone. These thoughts inspired me to choose this path," she said.

She enrolled as a lawyer in 2024. She prepared for the judicial services examination independently, choosing not to rely on coaching centres so as not to disrupt her practice. Some senior lawyers assisted her in preparing for the interview.

Thanya is the daughter of Jaganathan, an NRI, and Babitha, a homemaker. Her sister, Thara, is employed abroad.

TDP seeks policy on kids' social media use

MP writes to I&B minister for age-based regulation

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

DIGITAL SAFETY

- MP Lavu Krishna Devarayalu cites alarming data
- Points to recent cases from Ghaziabad and Lucknow, where minors lost their lives
- 90% of teens have smartphones, 75% use social media
- 60% of minors face online bullying

NDA ally TDP has urged the Centre to frame a national policy on age-based regulation of social media for children.

TDP's floor leader in the Lok Sabha, Lavu Krishna Devarayalu, on Tuesday wrote to Union I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, drawing attention to the growing concern over children's safety on social media platforms.

The letter comes at a time when the TDP-led NDA government in Andhra Pradesh is actively working to introduce a legal framework to restrict minors from accessing social media.

In his letter, the MP highlighted alarming data on excessive social media usage among Indian children and adolescents, linking it to anxiety, depression, self-harm, cyberbullying and other forms of online psychological distress.

Devarayalu noted that in India, nearly 90% of children aged 14-16 have access to smartphones at home, and over 75% actively use social media. Studies indicate that more than 60% of minors have experienced online bullying, while nearly half have been exposed to age-inappropriate or harmful content. Excessive social media use has increasingly been associated with rising levels of anxiety, depression and self-harm among adolescents, even as platforms continue to collect and monetise children's data without adequate safeguards.

"Recent tragic incidents in India further underscore the gravity of this challenge. Cases from Ghaziabad and Lucknow, where minors lost their lives following extreme digital addiction, cyberbullying and online psychological distress, have triggered nationwide concern. The Economic Survey 2025-26 has also flagged rising digital addiction among youth, linking high-intensity social media use to serious mental health and behavioural risks," the Narasaraopet MP said in the letter. He added that several countries have begun responding to this challenge through decisive legislative action.

"This reflects an emerging global consensus that parental controls alone are insufficient and that responsibility must rest squarely with platforms," he said.

Devarayalu had already introduced a Private Member's Bill on Social Media (Age Restrictions and Online Safety) in the House. The Bill proposes a minimum age threshold for social media access, mandatory age-verification mechanisms and the permanent deletion of children's personal data collected during verification.

Encroachment on forest land a 'grave challenge', says SC

Court says it must be dealt with lawful means; backs Assam govt's policy

ASSAM CASE

- Court stresses fair process, not arbitrary action
- Assam govt policy to clear encroachments gets SC backing
- Appellants claim 70 years residence, valid IDs in forest villages
- State says 3.62 lakh hectares encroached

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said that encroachment upon forest land has emerged as one of the gravest challenges confronting environmental governance in the country, but stressed that it must be addressed through lawful measures and not arbitrary action.

Approving the Assam government's decision to remove encroachments from reserved forests, a bench of Justices PS Narasimha and Alok Aradhe underscored that the Constitution does not envisage a choice between environmental protection and the rule of law; rather, it insists that both must coexist and reinforce each other.

"Constitutional provisions reflect a collective responsibility on the part of citizens as well as the State to prevent, regulate and remedy environmental harm," the bench said, emphasising the importance of safeguarding forest lands.

The appellants, Abdul Khalek and others, claimed they were residents of several villages located within the Doyang Reserved Forest, South Nambar Reserved Forest, Jamuna Madunga Reserve Forest, Barpani Reserved Forest, Lutumai Reserved Forest and Golaghat Forest in Assam.

They contended that they and their predecessors had been residing in these villages for more than 70 years and had been issued Aadhaar cards, ration cards and other identity documents.

The state government, however, argued that a policy decision had been taken to remove all unauthorised encroachments from reserved forests and to restore such lands through reforestation and conservation measures.

It pointed out that approximately 3,62,082 hectares of forest land are under encroachment, affecting nearly 19.92% of the state's forest area.

The bench said, "In a country as ecologically diverse and climatically vulnerable as India, the role of forests assumes even greater significance. Encroachment upon forest land has emerged as one of the gravest challenges confronting environmental governance."

Finding that the process proposed by the state for the removal of encroachments conforms to the principles of fairness, reasonableness and due process, the SC directed the parties to maintain status quo with respect to the land occupied by the appellants/writ petitioners until a speaking order is passed and the 15-day notice period expires.

The court also took into account submissions by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the state government, who said that it would set up a committee of forest and revenue officials, which would issue notice to alleged unauthorised occupants and give them an opportunity to show evidence that they have the right to occupy the land in their possession.

Probe sabotage angle in Ajit Pawar death: NCP (SP) MLA

MUMBAI, DHNS: Rohit Pawar, NCP (SP) MLA on Tuesday called for investigating possible sabotage in the Baramati Learjet crash that killed deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar and urged a review of the pilot's record and VSR Ventures Pvt Ltd's conduct.

Rohit Pawar

It may be mentioned that NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar had ruled out the conspiracy angle in the tragedy and termed it an accident.

However, Rohit Pawar, Ajit's nephew, questioned the circumstances and sequence of events that led to the crash. He expressed confidence in the DGCA while questioning how thoroughly the state CID can investigate the incident.

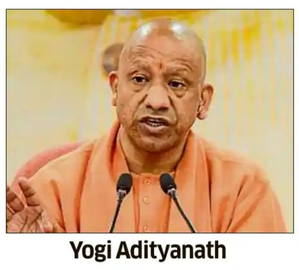
"Is this an accident or sabotage? ...many people in Maharashtra, and I feel that it could be sabotage...hence it requires proper investigation," he said, adding that Ajit's family members must be allowed to hear the details of the Black Box. "We do not believe this was a mere accident. There is room to suspect sabotage," he alleged.

"The company is trying to control the probe. It is going at a very slow pace."

Babri mosque will never be rebuilt, says Yogi

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In an indication that the forthcoming Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, which are a year away, may once again revolve around contentious religious issues, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the Babri mosque would never be rebuilt, as "qayamat" (doomsday) would never come.



Yogi Adityanath

"Those dreaming of qayamat should understand that it will never come, and the Babri mosque will never be rebuilt," Adityanath said while addressing a public meeting after attending a religious event in neighbouring Barabanki district.

"Those living for doomsday should mend their ways. The Babri mosque will never be built now," he added.

"The BJP government does what it says, and it says only what it does," the chief minister remarked, stressing that the saffron party had promised to build the Ram temple—and delivered on that promise.

"The moment of pride came in Ayodhya after 500 years... past governments did nothing to build the Ram temple," he said.

Adityanath also took potshots at the Opposition, saying there were some "opportunistic" people who remembered Lord Rama only in times of crisis.

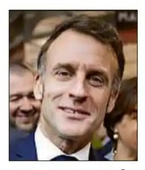
His use of the term 'qayamat' triggered sharp responses from Muslim clerics and Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav.

"The chief minister should not use Urdu words as he has problems with the language," Akhilesh said, adding that the BJP resorted to communal politics whenever it feared losing power.

Muslim clerics also countered Adityanath's remarks, saying that qayamat would certainly come.

French Prez Macron to visit India from February 17 to 19

NEW DELHI, PTI: French President Emmanuel Macron will undertake a three-day visit to India next week to attend the AI Impact Summit and hold talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to boost ties in key sectors such as trade and defence.



Emmanuel Macron

Macron will begin his visit from Mumbai on February 17 where he and Modi will inaugurate the India-France Year of Innovation. The two leaders are expected to hold bilateral talks in Mumbai.

"Both leaders will hold discussions on strengthening bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas as enshrined in the Horizon 2047 Roadmap," the MEA said.

The 'Horizon Roadmap' was unveiled following wide-ranging talks between Modi and Macron in Paris in July 2023. Its aim was to shore up bilateral ties, including in trade and investment.

The MEA said Modi and Macron will discuss regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. "The two leaders will also be in Mumbai to jointly inaugurate the India-France Year of Innovation, which will be celebrated throughout 2026 in both countries," it said in a statement.

Macron will participate in the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on February 19.

DMK plans micro strategy to reach out to communities ahead of TN polls

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

In January, K K Selvakumar of the Veera Mutharaiyar Munnetra Sangam, which wields significant influence among Mutharaiyars who are spread across Central Tamil Nadu, announced his support for the ruling DMK in the 2026 Assembly elections.

A couple of months ago, K S Raj Gounder, belonging to the Vettuva Gounder community, put his weight behind the DMK in the presence of Deputy CM Udhayanidhi Stalin after rechristening his caste outfit into a political party named Puthiya Dravida Kazhagam. Udhayanidhi's presence at the event did stoke a controversy, with many questioning the DMK's social justice principles.

The two events, which took place months apart, show how the DMK is reaching out to communities that lack proper political representation ahead of the elections. The party is also identifying castes that are minorities but could hold the key to victory in several constituencies, unwilling to take chances as TN is set to witness a four-cornered contest this election. DMK has been recalibrating its electoral strategy with Vijay's TVK expected to dent the vote bank of almost all political parties due to the actor's superstar status.

About 30 communities have been identified for the outreach, DMK leaders told *DH*, adding that a few community leaders will be fielded as candidates in the election.

Selvakumar's outfit, which had supported the BJP in the 2024 LS polls, could help the DMK further its outreach among Mutharaiyars, who had traditionally voted for the AIADMK given their fascination for the legendary M G Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa.

The DMK first reached out to the community in 2021 polls by giving a cabinet berth to Siva V Meyyanathan, a Mutharaiyar, in a bid to wean away the community from the AIADMK. Mutharaiyars were unhappy with the AIADMK after Selvakumar was denied a seat in the 2021 Assembly polls.

"Mutharaiyars decide the winner in about 20 constituencies. We believe that the outreach will result in the community supporting the party. Every vote becomes important in a multi-cornered contest, and that's why we are identifying sections that are not politically represented in proportion to their population," a DMK leader told *DH*.

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/92/2025-26/2596 Date: 10-02-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Smt. T.V. Anitha W/o C.N. Rudrappa has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Commercial"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No: 137 extent of 02 Acre-00 Guntas out of 04 Acre-01 Gunta of Vandaraguppe Village, Kasaba Hobli, Channapattana Taluk, Bangalore South District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said land, the general publics will get jobs by Trade/Business transaction.
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the commercial activities in the above said land.
4) By the development of Commercial area, the Government will get the Taxes in various forms.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his / her objection to **Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru** in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary, B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/5577/Adverto/2025-26

KELADI SHIVAPPA NAYAKA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL SCIENCES
Office of Estate Officer, Main Premises, Iruvakki 577412, Shivamogga District
Ph.No :**9480838979**, E-mail: **eo@uahs.edu.in**
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೆಶಿನಾಕೃತೋವಿವಿ(ಇ)/ಆ.ಅ/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-21/20/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders have been invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department to undertake Civil works at Iruvakki College and Hiriyuru Colleges of Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Shivamogga. Tender notification, schedule and tender details are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender schedules are as follows: **(1)** Last date and time for submission of tender: **02.03.2026 upto 4.00 P M. (2)** Date and time of opening of Technical bid : **03.03.2026 at 4.30 P M. (3)** Date and time of opening of Financial bid : **04.03.2026 at 10.00 A M.**

Details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours. Contact Estate Officer, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural and Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Anandapura, Sagar Taluq, Shivamogga – 577 412 on all working hours. Phone No. 9480838979.

Sd/-
Estate Officer, Keladi Shivappa Nayaka University of Agricultural & Horticultural Sciences, Iruvakki, Shivamogga
DIPR/SMG/No. 57-02/Zenkar/2025-26

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

BESCOM invites tender against Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/IND0190/Call-2 for Procurement of 11 kV, 400 Amps Double Break GOS. Bid Documents available from: 11.02.2026 onwards. Last date for Bid Submission: 26.02.2026, 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 27.02.2026, 17:15 Hrs. The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal web-site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777, 09240214000 & 09240214001) or email at support@ eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM, 4th Floor, K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001.

For electricity related complaints call 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CEE/TKR/Tr(Op)Z/SEE(O)/AEE–2/2025-26/12249-51 Dated : 09.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

KPTCL invites bid for the following work.

Nature of work and Bid Enquiry No
Bid Enquiry No: KPTCL/CEE/TKR/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/Bid Enq-0097.
Replacement of 2x12.5, 66/11kV Power Transformer-1 & 2 by 2x20MVA 66/11kV Power Transformer at 66/11KV sub-station Kadajji, Davanagere Operation Division, KPTCL, Davanagere Taluk & District including supply of equipments/materials, Dismantling and erection (including civil works), under Partial Turnkey basis on Percentage Tender Basis (Excluding the supply of Major materials such as Power Transformer & NIFS, which will be supplied by KPTCL. Testing & commissioning, done by KPTCL RT Staff) in KPP Portal.

The detailed information regarding subject enquiry in KPP portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** after **13.02.2026** and any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy.),
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, "Prasarana Bhavan", 1st Floor, 66/11KV Tumakuru S/s Premises,Tumakuru - 572103.

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer
VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.3 Arasikere
Ph: 08174233111 e-mail: eeypd3ask@gmail.com
Short Term Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-03/YGC/TN-10/2025-26/1715 Dated:06.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:10/2025-26/1715 Dtd:06.02.2026 (TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM) (Only through E-procurement KPP Portal)

Tenders in electronic mode on "PERCENTAGE BASIS" are invited on behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Limited, Bangalore by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division No.3, Arasikere, Hassan District in Two tender document system. Details of works are as follows Sl. No.Name of work 1)Indent No- VJNL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 469 and 470 Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Category of Contractor KPWD Class-2 and Above Civil contractors Details for submission of bids/EMD/ tender conditions/Pre-qualification criteria/ Pre bid details and other information related to above said work can be obtained through e-portal http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Intending bidder can access the tender document from Date:10.02.2026 through e-portal. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the e-portal. Any further information required may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours. Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.3, Arasikere. Ph: 08174-233111, e-mail: eeypd3ask@gmail.com

Sd/- Executive Engineer, VJNL, Y P Division, No.3 Arasikere
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1041/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.1 Sakaleshpur - 573134 Ph: 08173-244454, e-mail: eeypdn1@gmail.com
Tender Notification No: EE/YP/VJNL/DIV-01/TN/06/(1)CALL-2/2025-26/1752 Dated: 09.02.2026

PERCENTAGE TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEM) (Only through kppp portal system)

"Percentage" tenders through kppp portal for 03 works are invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.1,Sakaleshapura on behalf of Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigama Ltd., Registered office, Bangalore from thePWD registered eligible contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification conditions as per the published bid documents for the work. The amount put to tender varies from Rs. 76.22, Rs..76.10 Rs. 50.64 Lakhs. Out of 03 works, Sl No. 01 to 03 reserved for Schedule Tribe/Category-2A contractors. The contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents for as per the Calendar of events mentioned below.

Sl No	Sl No of works as per Tender Notification	The bidder can access & download the tender documents	Last date of Submission of completed Tender Documents	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bid
1	01 to 03	10.02.2026 to 16.02.2026 up to 5.30 pm	16.02.2026 5.30 pm	18.02.2026 11.00 Am

The technical bid (Cover-I) will be opened at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, Yettinahole Project Division, No.1, Sakaleshapura through kppp portal.Details such as Amount put to tender/EMD amount/Qualification of bidders/ Tender Conditions etc can be obtained through kppp portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home. Financial bids will be opened after Technical bid approval or on the date specified in the kppp.portal, whichever is later. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not be bound to accept the lowest tender. Corrigendum/addendum will be published in the kppp.portal for all modifications or corrections if any. Any further information required may be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-Executive Engineer, VJNL, YP Division, No.1, Sakaleshpura
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1051/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS, TUMKUR TERRITORIAL DIVISION, TUMKUR
E-Mail:acftumkur@gmail.com
No:ACF/TUSD/RE-E-TENDER/CR-09/2026-26
Dated: 05.02.2026

E-Tender Notification

E-Tender is invited by the Forest Department, Tumkur Sub-Division, Tumkur Territorial Division pertaining to Tumkur range under CAMPA Scheme for Construction of Frontline staff Quatreses at Banshankari Quarters premises In Tumkur Range (group housing) works for the year 2025-26. The Bidder needs to be registered as CIVIL Contractor during 2025-26 for Civil works can participate for the following works

Total Number of Works: 01. Value of the Work Rs.67,23,509/-. Value EMD Rs.90,477/-, Bid Submission Closing Date & Time: 16-02-2026 at 3:00 PM. Technical Bid Opening Date : 17-02-2026 at 3:01 PM. Price Bid Opening Date :18-02-2026 at 3:01 PM. Last date for Bid Enquiry : 11-02-2026 at 3:00 PM. For more information about this tender may contact our office at office timings and more details on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Tumkur Sub Division, Tumkur
DIPR/TUM/431/KSMCA/2025-26

Internet suspended in Manipur districts after fresh violence

Over 30 houses burnt down since tension began on Feb 7; villagers flee homes

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

Fresh firing and arson allegedly by miscreants from Naga and Kuki communities kept Manipur's Ukhrul district volatile on Tuesday, forcing the government to temporarily suspend mobile and broadband internet services for five days.

The internet was suspended in the entire Ukhrul district and in the Lhungtin sub-division of neighbouring Kamjong and Phungyar sub-division of Kangpokpi district. Ukhrul and Kamjong are Naga-dominated, while Kukis are the majority in Kangpokpi. The three districts, however, has population of Naga and Kuki communities.

Areas under Litan in Ukhrul remained volatile with armed persons belonging to both the communities burning more than 10 houses on Tuesday, while firing from automatic weapons was also heard. Videos shared by both the Naga and Kuki communities showed houses near a bridge at Litan set on fire. The firing and arson continued despite the deployment of a large number of security forces, including the army and paramilitary forces. More than 30 houses have been burnt down so far since the tension began on February 7.

There is, however, no report of casualties in the firing. But many villagers belonging to both the Naga and Kuki communities fled their homes out of fear of more violence.

An order issued by N Ashok Kumar, the commissioner and secretary of the Manipur home department, said the internet was suspended as miscreants might use the social media to circulate images, posts and videos, which could lead to serious repercussions in the law and order situation. It said a volatile situation still prevailed in Ukhrul.

Sources said the internet was suspended in parts of Kamjong and Kangpokpi district fearing the spread of violence.

The tension started on Saturday night when two groups belonging to Kuki and Naga communities engaged in a fight. Sources said it started with a brawl between two groups in an inebriated condition.

Several organisations appealed to villagers of both communities to prevent the fight from turning into a full-blown conflict between the two communities.

Manipur government is worried about a possible Naga-Kuki fight, something which could jeopardise its efforts to end the Meitei-Kuki conflict since May 2023. Manipur had witnessed the Naga-Kuki conflict in the past.

Tej Pratap, actor Sonu Sood extend help to Rajpal Yadav

NEW DELHI, PTI: Actors Sonu Sood, Gurmeet Chaudhary and politician Tej Pratap Yadav on Tuesday offered help to Rajpal Yadav after the comedian surrendered to Tihar jail authorities in connection with cheque-bounce cases stemming from the box office debacle of his 2010 directorial debut.

Rajpal Yadav

Tej Pratap Yadav, Jan Shakti Janata Dal president and the elder son of politician Lalu Yadav, announced the financial assistance of Rs 11 lakh to Yadav and his family.

"I just received information about the pain of the family of the honorable Rajpal Yadav ji through the post of my elder brother Rao Inderjeet Yadav ji. In this extremely difficult time, I and my entire JJD (Jan Shakti Janata Dal) family stand in complete empathy and solidarity with their grieving family," Yadav posted on X.

"With a spirit of human compassion and support, on behalf of the JJD family, I am providing financial assistance of 11,00,000 (eleven lakh rupees) to their family," he added.

In a post on X, Sood said he was signing up Yadav for his next film and offering the signing amount as a way to help the embattled actor, who is an NSD graduate and has been a mainstay in many popular Bollywood comedies. Sood urged others to come forward as well.

The actor said the industry should "remind him he's not alone".

Gift cards to crypto: ED exposes call centre fraud ring

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

An investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office, into large-scale illegal call centre operations revealed that the operators impersonated officials of US government agencies or representatives of private companies. They intimidated victims by falsely alleging non-payment of loan dues, tax liabilities or impending legal action, thereby coercing them into purchasing gift cards or making digital payments.

The proceeds of crime generated through these activities were primarily collected via Amazon gift cards, which were subsequently redeemed and converted into cryptocurrency, including Bitcoin. The conversion was facilitated through online platforms such as Paxful and other illegal channels, with the involvement of foreign nationals in enabling the conversion and liquidation of the cryptocurrency.

During recent search operations, ED officials discovered cryptocurrency worth approximately $12,000 in the possession of one of the key accused. The seized cryptocurrency was subsequently transferred to the ED's crypto wallet. Unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 13.5 lakh was also seized.

The ED initiated an investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act based on FIRs registered by the Cyberabad Police and the CBI, relating to organised cyber fraud and impersonation.

The main accused have been identified as Mohammed Ansari, Akib Gulamrasul Ghanchi, Vikas K Nimar, Divyang Raval and Pradip V Rathod.

The ED investigation revealed that illegal call centres across multiple locations were run by a single group using shared infrastructure, trained staff, scripted calls and a centralised money-handling system. While a small portion of the proceeds passed through Indian banks, most were routed via cash and cryptocurrency, encashed through hawala operators and local black markets.

Sources confirmed that 31 bank accounts and a locker linked to the accused and their entities have been frozen.

'From 150 members to 12': U'khand gym owner says biz crippled by shop-naming row

KOTDWARA, PTI: The 'Hulk' gym in Uttarakhand's Kotdwara, once a bustling hub with over 150 members, has been deserted by all but a dozen regulars following a heated row over a shop name.

Deepak Kumar, the 42-year-old owner, said his business has collapsed since he confronted Bajrang Dal activists protesting against a garment shop named 'Baba' and identified himself as 'Mohammad Deepak'.

He said the ongoing tension has made his livelihood a casualty of the dispute.

"Earlier, over 150 people used to train at my gym. Since this dispute began, the headcount has dwindled to just 12 or 15," Kumar said, adding that regulars are staying away to avoid the friction.

On January 26, when Bajrang Dal activists protested outside the 'Baba' clothing store on Patel Marg in Kotdwar to pressure its 70-year-old owner, Vakil Ahmed, to change the name of the shop.

During the protest, clashes broke out between activists, shop owner Vakil Ahmed, and his son's friend Deepak Kumar, after which Kumar, identifying himself as Mohammad Deepak, forced the protesters to retreat.

On January 31, a larger group of activists again gathered outside Ahmed's shop and Kumar's gym, blocked the road and shouted slogans.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

HONEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE THIS LATE?
MY BODY CLOCK STILL HASN'T ADJUSTED TO THE TIME CHANGE
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH EATING A SANDWICH AT THREE IN THE MORNING?
IT'S STILL SET TO "STOMACH STANDARD TIME"

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

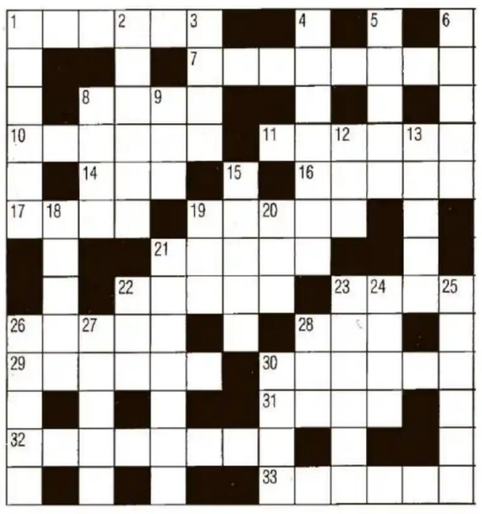
Peanuts

THAT HAS TO BE THE DUMBEST EXPERIMENT I'VE EVER SEEN!
WHY WOULD ANYONE WANT TO KNOW HOW MANY NOTCHES YOU CAN PUT IN A DOGHOUSE BEFORE THE ROOF FALLS IN?
IT'S CALLED "LIVE AND LEARN"
OR IS IT "LIVE AND DON'T LEARN"?

Marvin

I WAS EXPELLED FROM QUARK² DAYCARE
SO FOR PUNISHMENT MY PARENTS SENT ME HERE
MY MOM AND DAD MAKE ME GO HERE AS PUNISHMENT, TOO

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12351



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Hot music? (6)
7 A man hiding his forename (maybe Hiram or Elmer?) (8)
8 One's holiday in the balance? (4)
10 In a mad poet, one sees a first-class back – the dope! (6)
11 A refreshingly Continental little place (6)
14 Clever style of fishing? (3)
16 Maybe step out for a quarter hour, by arrangement (5)
17 Regards as a key agreement (4)
19 To come to the right conclusion can be heavenly! (5)
21 Recognised to end in chaos (5)
22 As a flier, he takes part in aeronautics (5)
23 An excuse to leap wildly? (4)
26 Projected through simulation? (5)
28 By way of the Roman road (3)
29 When to redevelop Acton East? (2,4)
30 In random fire, the marines are not so soft (6)
31 Skip a year? (4)
32 Geographical location of huge heat dispersal (3,5)
33 The way to a meeting-place (6)

DOWN
1 The word for freedom (6)
2 Ladies may have high ones (6)
3 An entrance one can get out of (4)
4 The way bread is cooked (7)
5 Peter the painter? (5)
6 Look around for a spoon? (5)
8 Like fire spreading all over the place (4)
9 Not a nice place to stay around mid-day (3)
12 Group on TV? (3)
13 Barnaby's rude about golf (5)
15 Powerful central heating in the back room (5)
18 Aboard which to have chat with a Yankee? (5)
19 Less than rancorous exclamation (3)
20 Join me at the Nag's Head, chaps! (3)
21 Fresh paint can help give a smart appearance (3,4)
22 She may finish up in the kitchen (3)
23 Plagiarist one has to chatter about (6)
24 Enlightenment for a Los Angeles politician? (4)
25 To get there, I have to follow a car (6)
26 Try moving east to the West End! (5)
27 Seemingly quarrelsome oarsman? (5)
28 Be competitive in life on the Continent (3)
30 A puce jumper (4)

EASY

ACROSS
1 Fail to remember (6)
7 High and mighty (8)
8 Young salmon (4)
10 Absolutely correct (4-2)
11 Prior to (6)
14 Mesh (3)
16 Iraqi currency (5)
17 Eyelid inflammation (4)
19 Warehouse, storehouse (5)
21 Seraglio (5)
22 Of Cuba (5)
23 Put flowers in this (4)
26 Planet (5)
28 Spider's trap (3)
29 Single-cell organism (6)
30 Expunge (6)
31 Object of worship (4)
32 Beginners (8)
33 Brave men (6)

DOWN
1 Banquets (6)
2 Small pointed beard (6)
3 Mountain lake (4)
4 Tedium (7)
5 Claw (5)
6 Guide (5)
8 Small horse (4)
9 Decay (3)
12 Seizure (3)
13 Speed contests (5)
15 Wild (5)
18 Tribal badge (5)
19 Touch lightly and quickly (3)
20 Writing tool (3)
21 Male spouse (7)
22 Snooker rod (3)
23 Velvet-like fabric (6)
24 Cain's brother (4)
25 Happenings (6)
26 Spring over (5)
27 Wanderer (5)
28 Marry (3)
30 Plate (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12350

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, P-lane 6, Skein 9, Explain 10, On ice 11, Gourd 12, Right 13, De-lay-ed 15, Mac 17, Oder 18, Nevada 19, Blood 20, Gloves 22, Nose 24, Eon 25, Delig-ht. 26, La-ir-d 27, Divot 28, April 29, VE-hicle 30, Shoes 31, Pri(c)ed.
DOWN: 2, Landed 3, Nectar 4, Ex-E 5, PLA-I'd 6, Sighted (sited) 7, Knot 8, Inroad 12, Reels 13, Dodge 14, Lemon 15, Ma-Gog 16, Cadet 18, No.-Ted 19, Berates 21, Lo-wish 22, Nip-per 23, Shrike 25, D-ru-id 26, Love 28, A-LP.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Ghost 6, Epoch 9, Logical 10, Gloat 11, Roost 12, Taunt 13, Recover 15, Hop 17, Atom 18, Assume 19, Giant 20, Ironed 22, Dice 24, Dan 25, Boarder 26, Decry 27, Radar 28, Pasta 29, Matador 30, Bevel 31, Types.
DOWN: 2, Helmet 3, Slalom 4, Tot 5, Cigar 6, Earnest 7, Plot 8, Custom 12, Tepid 13, Rapid 14, Colon 15, Humid 16, Peter 18, Annoy 19, General 21, Ravage 22, Dreary 23, Centre 25, Bread 26, Dame 28, Pot.

◆SU-DO-KU-6827◆

			1		9	6	3	
					6			
		6		8			7	9
6	3	1						8
	7	4	8		2	9	1	
8						3	4	5
4	5			1		8		
			3					
	9	8	6		4			

easy

SOLUTION TO 6826

7	3	5	8	2	1	9	6	4
9	2	1	6	4	5	7	3	8
8	4	6	9	7	3	1	5	2
4	9	3	5	1	6	8	2	7
1	5	2	7	8	4	6	9	3
6	7	8	2	3	9	5	4	1
2	8	9	4	5	7	3	1	6
3	6	7	1	9	2	4	8	5
5	1	4	3	6	8	2	7	9

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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							Triple Word Score	RACK 1
P3	O1	I1	R1	N1	K5	W4		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 2
J8	R1	O1	E1	E1	T1	C3		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 3
C3	S1	I1	I1	A1	K5	R1		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 4
B3	T1	L1	S1	A1	A1	M3		
							Triple Word Score	RACK 5
P3	L1	T1	A1	A1	H4	S1		

PAR SCORE 310-320
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	L1	A1	N1	T1	E1	R1	RACK 1 =	59
P3	O1	V4	E1	R1	T1	Y4	RACK 2 =	73
C3	E1	R1	I1	U1	M3		RACK 3 =	30
C3	O1	N1	F4	O1	R1	M3	RACK 4 =	64

PAR SCORE 155-165 JUDD'S TOTAL 226

JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

EMVON

KRWCE

LPTEIG

LNHIFC

MAKE SOME NOISE!
Wow! Listen to that! The crowd is going wild!
I bet they can hear that on the south side.
HE WAS ONE OUT AWAY FROM A PERFECT GAME, AND THE CROWD'S CHEERING REACHED A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: _____ _____ (Answers tomorrow)

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Yesterday's Jumbles: CLICK FEIGN THORNY WHOOSH
Answer: King Arthur's men would gather each evening to report on the — "KNIGHTLY" NEWS

HITORI-3281

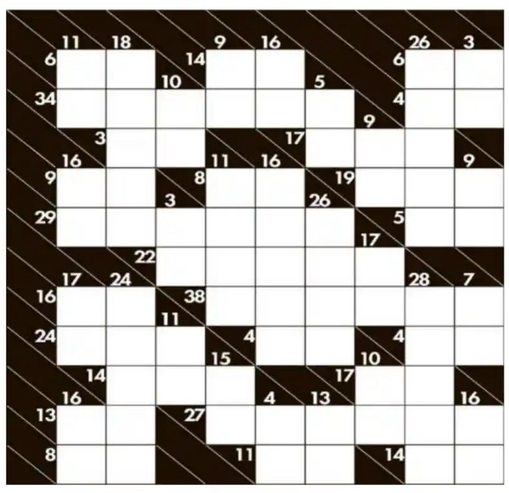
4	8	6	1	5	8	2	6
6	2	8	3	1	3	7	5
7	5	8	3	4	8	8	3
8	8	2	4	8	7	6	6
6	4	1	2	6	5	3	8
5	6	4	8	2	8	1	7
3	8	7	8	5	4	8	2
1	1	5	8	7	2	4	2

SOLUTION TO 3280

■	8	■	5	4	■	3	2
2	1	3	4	■	6	8	■
4	3	■	1	5	■	6	7
■	7	2	■	8	3	■	4
1	2	7	3	■	8	4	6
■	5	■	8	7	4	2	■
6	■	4	7	3	2	1	8
8	4	5	■	2	■	7	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3281



SOLUTION TO 3280

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3824

8	6	3			7			
			2					
		4	1		5			
				9				8
			9	7				
5	2	7			4	6		
					6	1		

SOLUTION TO 3823

1	6	7	3	4	2	8	5	9
5	4	9	8	1	6	3	2	7
8	3	2	7	9	5	1	4	6
7	2	4	6	3	8	5	9	1
9	8	3	2	5	1	6	7	4
6	1	5	4	7	9	2	8	3
4	5	6	9	8	3	7	1	2
2	7	8	1	6	4	9	3	5
3	9	1	5	2	7	4	6	8

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

India already winding down Russian oil buys: US

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: India has already started "winding down" its purchases of Russian oil and is "ramping back up" energy buying from America and other sources, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said on Tuesday.

Last week, India and the US reached a framework for an interim deal and reaffirmed their commitment to broader trade deal. US President Donald Trump also agreed to remove the punitive 25% tariff on imports from India in "recognition of India's commitment to stop purchasing" Russian oil.

Responding to a question on Fox Business on whether India would indeed shift away from Russian oil, Greer said: "The short answer is yes. They've already started winding down their purchases of Russian energy products. They've started ramping back up purchases of American energy and from other sources." Greer said the US has discussed oil purchases from Venezuela with India.

Threats and intimidation from US not yet over, says Macron

French president urges Europe to start acting like world power

PARIS, REUTERS

Europe should brace for further moments of US hostility, French President Emmanuel Macron has warned, urging the European Union to treat what he called the "Greenland moment" as a wake-up call to push through reforms to strengthen the bloc's global power.

Macron said Europe must assert itself on the world stage and start acting like a "power", warning that the continent faces a decisive moment amid growing threats from China, Russia and now the US. Speaking to a group of European newspapers ahead of an EU summit in Brussels later this week, he described the situation as a "wake-up call".

"Are we ready to become a power? This is the question in the field of economy and finance, in defence and security, and in our democratic systems," Macron said.

Macron said the EU should not mistake a lull in tensions with Washington for a lasting shift, despite a pause in US threats over Greenland, trade and technology. He urged EU leaders to use a summit at a Belgian castle this week to inject momentum into reforms aimed at boosting the bloc's power.

"When there's a clear act of aggression, I think what we should do isn't bow down or try to reach a settlement," the French president said.

Macron said the Trump administration was being "openly anti-European" and was seeking the EU's "dismemberment".

He said he expected further tensions with the Trump administration. "The US will, in the coming months — that's certain — attack us over digital regulation," Macron added, warning of potential US tariffs from President Donald Trump should the EU use its Digital Services Act to rein in technology companies.

A Navy Rafale fighter jet is refuelled by a French Air Force Airbus A400M military aircraft during training on high-intensity warfare exercise in France on Tuesday. France and several countries are pushing for European Security Council and EU Army to boost the continent's security. REUTERS

US to fund free speech initiatives in Europe

The Trump administration will fund efforts to promote free speech within Western countries allied with Washington, a senior State Department official said on Monday during a visit to Europe focused on pushing back against European regulations that US officials have branded as censorship, Reuters reports from Washington.

US officials have forcefully opposed online rules such as the EU's Digital Services Act and Britain's Online Safety Act, which Washington says stifle free speech — particularly criticism of immigration policies — while imposing burdensome requirements on US technology companies. Advocates say the rules are needed to combat hateful speech, misinformation and disinformation online.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Actress Angelina Jolie attends the screening of the film "Coutures" at the Pathe Palace cinema in Paris on Monday. AFP

Attacker of Indian students in Russia pleads guilty

▸ The 15-year-old juvenile, who attacked and wounded four Indian medical students and two police officers on Saturday, pleaded guilty and was remanded to two months' judicial custody on Tuesday, PTI reports from Moscow.

The teenager, a student of class IX of a local school, pleaded guilty and apologised to his victims for causing suffering to them, Bashinform agency reported. He was produced in the Ufa court and has been remanded to judicial custody for 2 months, till April 7, according to reports from the capital of Bashkortostan, 1200 km east of Moscow. He faces up to a 15-year sentence for the knife attack on four Indian students and two police officers. The Federal Investigating Agency has also launched a case of dereliction of duty against local officials.

Heavy snowfall kills 46 in Japan

▸ Nearly three weeks of heavy snowfall have killed 46 people and injured 558 others across Japan, fresh data from the Fire and Disaster Management Agency showed on Tuesday, AFP reports from Aomori.

Continued snowfall since late January has buried northern communities and caused traffic chaos, particularly along the coast facing the Sea of Japan. Many of the fatal accidents occurred when mounds of snow fell from rooftops onto residents or when people tumbled while attempting to clear snow.

Will support reunification forces in Taiwan: China

PLA warns it could 'wipe out' Taiwan's forces

BEIJING, REUTERS

China will offer firm support for "patriotic pro-reunification forces" in Taiwan and strike hard against "separatists", the top Chinese official in charge of policy towards the democratically governed island said in comments published on Tuesday.

China, which views Taiwan as its own territory despite objections from the government in Taipei, has ramped up military and political pressure on the island as Beijing seeks to assert its sovereignty claims.

Addressing this year's annual Taiwan Work Conference, the ruling Communist Party's fourth-ranked leader, Wang Huning, said officials must advance the "great cause of national reunification", the official state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

It is necessary to "firmly support the patriotic pro-unification forces on the island, resolutely strike against 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces, oppose interference by external forces, and safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait", Xinhua paraphrased him as saying.

While the report made no mention of the use of force, China has never renounced the option of using military means to bring Taiwan under its control. The Chinese defence ministry struck a stronger tone while commenting on Taiwanese military deployments.

"If the 'Taiwan independence' armed forces dare to provoke a conflict, they will inevitably be wiped out," defence ministry spokesperson Jiang Bin said on Tuesday in Beijing.

China has long offered Taiwan a Hong Kong-style "one country, two systems" model of autonomy, though no major Taiwanese political party supports the proposal.

Taiwanese military holds a long-range live-fire drill at an undisclosed location. REUTERS FILE

US strikes deal with Bangladesh to trim tariff rate

WASHINGTON, AFP: The United States and Bangladesh unveiled a deal Monday to lower US tariffs on goods from the world's second-biggest garment manufacturer, with Washington also committing to work towards duty exemptions for certain textiles and apparel.

Under the agreement, the Trump administration is set to trim US "reciprocal" tariffs on Bangladesh products from 20% to 19%, said a joint statement released by the White House. Such "reciprocal" duties were imposed by Trump last year to address trade imbalances or practices Washington deemed unfair.

Trump had set a tariff rate of 37% on Bangladesh goods. He reduced the tariff to 20% in August. Textile and garment production makes up about 80% of exports in Bangladesh, and the industry has been rebuilding after it was hit hard in a student-led revolution that toppled the government in 2024.

Hindu trader hacked to death inside his shop in Bangladesh

DHAKA, PTI

A 62-year-old Hindu trader was hacked to death by unidentified men inside his shop in Trishal upazila of Bangladesh's Mymensingh district, local media reported on Tuesday.

The incident occurred on Monday night at the Bogar Bazar intersection, Trishal police station chief Muhammad Firoz Hossain was quoted as saying by news portal bdnews24.com. The victim, identified as Susen Chandra Sarkar, owned Bhai Bhai Enterprise and was a resident of Southkanda village, he said.

Hossain said the attackers assaulted Sarkar with a sharp weapon, left him inside the shop and pulled down the shutters. Sarkar's family began searching for him and later found him lying in a pool of blood after opening the shop.

He was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. "We have been in the rice business for a long time. No one had any enmity with us. The criminals stole several hundred thousand taka from the shop after brutally killing my father," Sujan Sarkar, the victim's son, said.

He demanded that those responsible for the killing be identified and given exemplary punishment. Sarkar's murder is the latest incident of violence targeting members of the minority community. The Hindus in Bangladesh has been affected by a series of incidents following the killing of radical youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi in December.

Last month, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council alleged that communal violence was increasing at an alarming rate as the date of the general elections draws nearer.

US lawmaker introduces bill to end H-1B visa programme

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI: A US lawmaker has introduced a bill to end the H-1B visa programme, arguing that corporations have repeatedly abused the system to import cheaper foreign labour into the country.

US Representative Greg Steube, a Republican from Florida, introduced the Ending Exploitative Imported Labour Exemptions Act, or EXILE Act, which seeks to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act by abolishing the H-1B visa programme.

"Prioritising foreign labour over the well-being and prosperity of American citizens undermines our values and national interests," Steube said. "Our workers and young people continue to be displaced and disenfranchised by the H-1B visa programme, which rewards corporations and foreign competitors at the expense of our workforce. We cannot preserve the American dream for our children while forfeiting their share to non-citizens. That is why I am introducing the EXILE Act to put working Americans first again," he said.

H-1B visas are widely used by Indians to live and work in the US. The Trump administration has intensified its crackdown on immigration, both legal and illegal.

Describing abuse of the H-1B programme as a national security threat, President Donald Trump last year signed a proclamation imposing a $100,000 fee on new H-1B visas, triggering widespread panic, confusion and concern among Indian professionals.

Democracies' anti-corruption efforts are slipping: Survey

BERLIN, AP/PTI: Efforts by established democracies to tackle public-sector corruption appear to be losing momentum, according to a survey released on Tuesday that serves as a barometer of perceived corruption worldwide. The findings raised concerns about developments in the United States and the wider impact of US funding cuts.

Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index for 2025 ranked Denmark highest, with 89 points out of 100, followed by Finland and Singapore. At the bottom were South Sudan and Somalia, with nine points each, followed by Venezuela. The top three positions were unchanged, while South Sudan gained one point to draw level with Somalia.

The organisation said most countries are failing to keep corruption under control, with 122 of the 182 nations and territories surveyed scoring below 50 points. The global average score last year was 42, down one point and the lowest level in more than a decade. Only five countries scored above 80 in the 2025 report, compared with 12 a decade ago.

The report said that "too often, we are seeing a failure of good governance and accountable leadership".

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 31 /2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: **2059–80–053–4–00–200** ವಿವಿಧ ಇಲಾಖಾ ಕಟ್ಟಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ಥಿ/ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, **5054–04–337–0–01–154** ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೇ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ, **4059–80–051–0–60–132** ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇತರೆ ಬಂಡವಾಳ ವೆಚ್ಚಗಳು, **8443–00–117–0–16–542** ಠೇವಣಿ ವಂತಿಕೆ, 3054–03–337–0–05–200 ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ, **3054–04–337–1–10–200** ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು 21 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಅಥವಾ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿರುವ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ, (Standard Tender Document KW-1,3 & 4 ರಂತೆ) ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಲಗತ್ತಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಗೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 3ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹತೆಗಳಿದ್ದರೆ ಮಾತ್ರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ, **ಕನಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.1.12 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಗರಿಷ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.400.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಆಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ,** ಕೆಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವ 21 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (**ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:29383, 31079 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026,** ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **33299, 29916, 33234, 24722, 33269, 33294, 30726, 33235, 30276, 33271 ದಿನಾಂಕ:17.02.2026,** ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**32860 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18.02.2026,** ಇ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:**31265, 32333, 32332, 32547, 31082, 32553, 32408, 28683 ದಿನಾಂಕ:23.02.2026 ರಂದು**) ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಷಯ ನಿರ್ವಾಹಕರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ತಿಳಿಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಮಗಳೂರು

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಡಿ. ಘಟಕ, ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಸಾಂಕ್ರಾಮಿಕ ರೋಗಗಳ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.
E-Mail: ncdbelagavi2019@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಡಿ.ಎಲ್.ಒ/ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಡಿ./15/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07–02–2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ– ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 1999–2000 ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ವಯ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನದ ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಡಿ.ಸಿ.ಎಸ್, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಹೆಚ್.ಸಿ.ಇ, ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಸಿ, ಎನ್.ಎಂ.ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ ಮತ್ತು ಎನ್.ಪಿ.ಸಿ.ಬಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಸಮೂದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ (28), ಗ್ರೂಪ್ "ಡಿ" (4) ಮಲ್ಟಿ ಟಾಸ್ಕ ವರ್ಕರ (2) ರೇಕಾರ್ಡ ಕೀಪರ (1) ಮತ್ತು ವಾರ್ಡ ಅಸಿಸ್ಟಂಟ್ (1) ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮುಂದಿನ ಆದೇಶದವರೆಗೆ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಡಿ.ಎಲ್.ಒ/ಎನ್.ಸಿ.ಡಿ./15/2025–26 ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09–02–2026** ರಿಂದ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 23–02–2026** ರ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಪಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. **(https://kppp..karnataka.gov.in)** **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24–02–2026** ರಂದು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0831–2424284** ಗೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು. ಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ.

ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ/1807/2025–26/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿಟಿ

Government of Karnataka
The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Hassan Division, Hassan.
No. EE/PWD/HSN/JE-2/2025-26/ DATED: 06.02.2026.

Postponement of Short term SERVICE TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 35/2025-26, Dated: 27.01.2026

Last date and time for receipt of service tender for Sl No-01,04 and 05 of This Office SERVICE Tender Notification No.35/2025-26, Dated 27.01.2026, has been postponed to 18.02.2026 upto 16.00Hours. Other terms and conditions remains unaltered. For more details please visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office through Phone No. 08172-268437 or in person during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Hassan Division, Hassan.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೫/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/1049ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shivaji Nagara Division, BCCC, Thimmaiah Road,
Queens Road, Bengaluru

No.: EE(SJN)/KPPP/17/2025-26 Date: 10.02.2026

NOTICE INVITING SHORT TERM TENDER (NIT)
(SINGLE COVER SYSTEM NOTIFICATION)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji nagara Division), Bengaluru City Central Corporation GBA Limits invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike / KPWD / CPWD / Railways MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organization for the works detailed in the Table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing tools for demolishing of Building property owner name: Sri. Nazeer Ahmed, Site No: 130/1, PID No: 79-67-130/1, Old Market Road, Shivaji Nagar, Ward No: 119 (92), Bengaluru. **Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs):** 2.45, **EMD (in Rs.):** 6,125.00
2	Demolition and clearance the debris of the building Smt. Hemalatha, No: 14, PID No: 81-52-14, Sadhashiva Modaliar Road, Halasuru, Bengaluru (at 6 floor). **Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs):** 16.50, **EMD (in Rs.):** 41,250.00
3	Dismantling of Advertising Hoarding at Kensington Road in Ward No: 121, Halasuru. **Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs):** 3.75, **EMD (in Rs.):** 9,375.00

Calendar of events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from: **09.02.2026. (2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **17.02.2026 upto 4:00 P.M. (3)** Date of Opening of Tenders is on **18.02.2026** if possible or Next working day **11:00 A.M.** Further details can be obtained from the above office during working hours or from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara,
Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No. KERC/DD(Tariff)/2025-26/RP08-2025/1574 Date: 09.02.2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Sub: In the matter of the Review Petition No. RP08/2025 filed by Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMs) seeking modification to the tariff rates in respect of Irrigation pump sets, commercial and industrial consumer categories.

The Electricity Supply Companies (BESCOM, MESCOM, CESC, HESCOM and GESCOM) have filed a Review Petition No. RP08/2025 before the Commission seeking modification to the tariff rates in respect of Irrigation Pump sets, Commercial and Industrial consumer categories, for the financial year 2025-26, as against the tariff rates which were determined by the Commission in the Tariff Order-2025 dated 27.03.2025.

The details of consolidated Review Petitions (amended) are available on the websites of the respective ESCOMs and the Commission **(https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in)**

To elicit the views of the stakeholders / general public, the Commission will hold a public hearing on 25.02.2026, Wednesday at 11.00 AM at Commission's Court Hall, Bengaluru.

The public hearing will be conducted in hybrid mode, both physical and online/ virtual mode, as per the Standard Operating Procedure notified by the Commission on 18.09.2025.

The parties, stakeholders and general public who are interested to be represent through online/ virtual mode of hearing shall submit their names, Email Ids and Phone numbers to the Commission's registry through e-mail ID **asst.secykerc@gmail.com between 11.00 AM and 05.00 PM on or before 23.02.2026.**

Meeting Link through Microsoft Teams:

Meeting ID: 489 195 056 216 9

Passcode : Vb2c2D66

For such of the stakeholders / general public who are unable to attend the hearing physically or through individual online appearance may participate through the respective ESCOMs, who will arrange for online/ virtual meetings at suitable location at their headquarters, allowing stakeholders and the general public to participate in virtual mode.

Interested stakeholders / persons may participate in the public hearing and submit their oral / written objections to the Commission, during the public hearing.

Sd/- Secretary
For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

DIPR/CP/YC/5562/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Chief Executive officer, Zilla Panchayatha Haveri-581110
No.: HZP/DEV8/NRLM/Outsourcing/E-Tender/2025-26(E-24170) Date : 07-02-2026

E-Tender Notification

Invitation for E-Tender to Provide 45 Outsourced Staff Services under Sanjivinui- National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for 2 years through a Manpower Agency as per Tender Documents.
(1) E-Tender Number: **RDPR/2025-26/SE 3452** (2) Estimated amount of tender is Rs. **137.68** lakhs.(incl GST18%) (3) E.M.D amount is Rs. As per e-portal. (4) Tender documents: Downloaded and Submission Portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or before Dt: **24-02-2026**, 16.30 hrs. (5) Technical bids of tender will be opened on e-portal on: **26 -02-2026.** 11.00 A.M. (6) Financial bids of tender will be opened on e-portal on: **27-02-2026.** 11.30 A.M

Note: Tenderer eligibility criteria, scope of work, terms and conditions, tender processing fee, and EMD details are available on the kppp Portal

Sd/- Chief Executive officer, Zilla Panchayat Haveri

DIPR/HVR/KSMC&A/695/2025-26

'GenAI will help Happiest Minds charge to $1 bn revenues'

Soota says 10 changes unveiled last year driving growth

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Mid-tier IT services company Happiest Minds Technologies on Tuesday announced its 'AI First' strategy that will lead to an expansion of the company's market size and share, and also enhance its future growth. Last year, the company announced 10 strategic transformation changes to drive the company's growth.

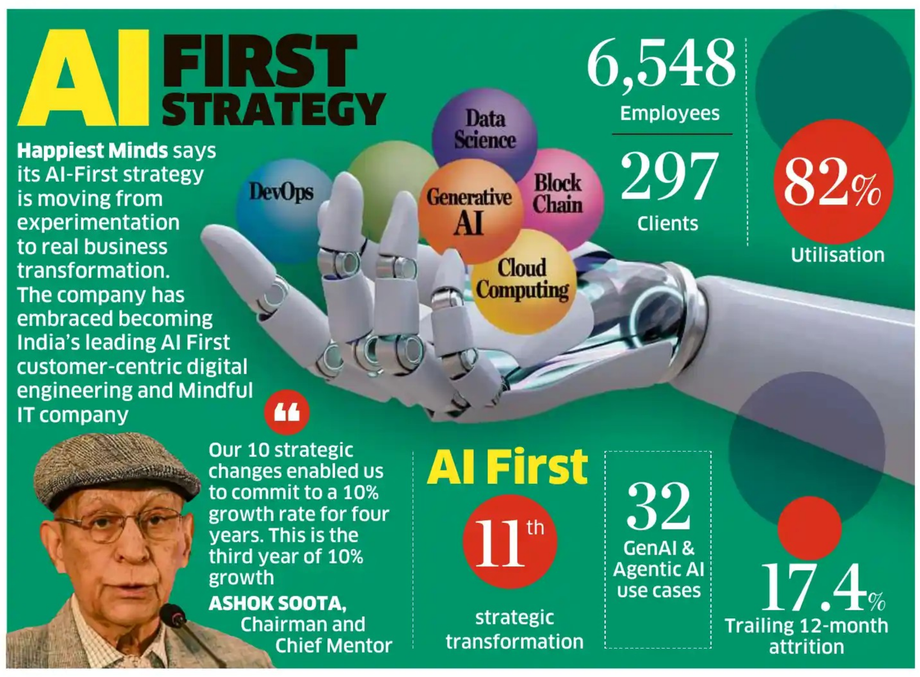
Announcing its 11th strategy, Ashok Soota, Chairman and Chief Mentor of the company said, "Our 10 strategic changes enabled us to commit to a 10% growth rate for four years. This is the third year of 10% growth. However, the industry then began to go through a certain additional turmoil, and so one of the changes that we had made in our 10 strategic changes was the creation of Generative AI Business Services (GBS). This is a division focused exclusively on GenAI."

The company has been maintaining its long-term revenue target of $1 billion by FY31, which Soota termed as very ambitious. "We won't lose sight of the billion-dollar goal. GenAI and these initiatives will help us get there faster," he added.

The firm's net profit for the quarter ended December 2025 stood at Rs 40.3 crore, a 19.56% decline compared to Rs 50.1 crore in the same quarter last year. The drop was due to the implementation of the new Labour Codes. "Other unallocable expenses include Rs 22.03 crore towards the impact of Labour Codes for the quarter," the company said in a BSE filing.

Its revenue from operations stood at Rs 587.56 crore, a 10.69% increase compared to Rs 530.81 crore in the year-ago period.

"Given the productivity increases that you're getting from AI, the fact that IT spend is growing," Joseph Anantharaju, Co-Chairman and CEO, told *DH*. He added that India contributes 18% of the company's revenues.


AI FIRST STRATEGY
Happiest Minds says its AI-First strategy is moving from experimentation to real business transformation. The company has embraced becoming India's leading AI First customer-centric digital engineering and Mindful IT company
Data Science
DevOps
Generative AI
Block Chain
Cloud Computing
6,548
Employees
297
Clients
82%
Utilisation
Our 10 strategic changes enabled us to commit to a 10% growth rate for four years. This is the third year of 10% growth
ASHOK SOOTA, Chairman and Chief Mentor
AI First
11th
strategic transformation
32
GenAI & Agentic AI use cases
17.4%
Trailing 12-month attrition

Anantharaju said enterprises are moving beyond experimentation, focusing on embedding AI into core workflows and platforms, where the business impact is scalable. "The demand environment remains selective, but increasingly intentional. Customers are not cutting technology spend indiscriminately; instead, they are prioritising initiatives where the business case is well-defined. AI-led productivity, modernisation of core platforms, and automation programs are seeing traction as enterprises focus on measurable outcomes and faster time-to-value," he added.

The company is also planning to double down on its AI/GenAI investments and build a dedicated 1,000-member team by FY27-end from 500 now. In Q3, its EBITDA margin stood at 20.4%. The company now has 32 GenAI and Agentic AI use cases that have moved beyond pilots into production-grade deployments.

Equity MF inflows fall for 2nd month to Rs 24,028 cr in Jan

Gold ETFs record sharp surge, attract Rs 24,040 crore

NEW DELHI, PTI

Equity mutual funds attracted net inflows of Rs 24,028 crore in January, a slump of 14% from the previous month, as investor sentiment remained cautious amid subdued market conditions and ongoing geopolitical concerns.

This was the second consecutive month of moderation in equity inflows.

Over the past several months, equity markets have delivered muted returns, while commodities, especially gold and silver, have seen strong momentum.

As a result, a portion of investor money shifted toward commodities during this period, Swapnil Aggarwal, Director, VSRK Capital, said.

Gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs) recorded a sharp surge in inflows in January, attracting Rs 24,040 crore — more than double from Rs 11,647 crore in the preceding month — as gold prices climbed amid rising geopolitical risks.

With this, inflows into gold ETFs marginally surpassed those into equity mutual funds for the very first time.

According to data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) on Tuesday, equity inflows softened sequentially from Rs 28,054 crore in December and Rs 29,911 crore in November, although they remained higher than Rs 24,690 crore recorded in October.

Himanshu Srivastava, Principal Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said that the flows remained constructive despite bouts of market volatility, supported by steady SIP contributions and continued confidence in the long-term structural growth prospects of Indian equities.

Retail participation through systematic investment plans (SIPs) remained steady at Rs 31,000 crore in January, suggesting their preference for disciplined and long-term wealth creation strategies.

Silver dips Rs 7,500; gold rises Rs 2,200, amid firm US dollar

NEW DELHI, PTI : Silver prices declined Rs 7,500 or nearly 3% to Rs 2.64 lakh per kg in the national capital on Tuesday, while gold prices appreciated by Rs 2,200 per 10 grams amid a firm US dollar.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the white metal dropped Rs 7,500 to Rs 2,64,500 per kg (inclusive of all taxes) from Monday's closing of Rs 2,72,000 per kg. Gold of 99.9% purity appreciated by Rs 2,200, or 1.4%, to Rs 1,60,700 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes). In the international market, spot silver fell by $1.13, or 1.37%, to $82.16 per ounce, while gold is trading marginally lower at $5,052.43 per ounce.

Rupee rises 10 paise to close at 90.56 against greenback

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee pared initial losses and settled on a positive note on Tuesday, higher by 10 paise at 90.56 against the US dollar, supported by positive cues from domestic equities and weakening of the American currency in the overseas market.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 90.63 against the US dollar, then lost some ground to touch an intraday low of 90.77 and a high of 90.48 against the greenback. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01% higher at 96.82.

Ethera raises Rs 25 cr from BlueStone

BENGALURU, DHNS: Lab-grown diamond jewellery brand Ethera has raised Rs 25 crore from Bluestone, which has doubled down on its investment to support the brand's next phase of expansion.

Ethera was founded by Nitesh Jain and Sharad Arora in 2024. The fund will be deployed to expand its physical retail footprint. The brand currently operates five stores in Bengaluru and Delhi, with new locations set to go live in the coming weeks.

Trade deal to help revive India's exports to US, says CNH

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Global agriculture and construction equipment-maker CNH on Tuesday said its exports to the US from Indian units, which have come to a near standstill due to high tariffs, is likely to revive in the coming months as the two countries move closer to ink a trade deal.

Narinder Mittal, President and Managing Director of CNH India region, said the company is hopeful of revival of orders from the US markets as the reduced tariff of 18% would make Made-in-India products competitive.

"With the tariff situation easing, we should be able to offset the loss in sales that we have due to high tariffs," Mittal told reporters. Under the proposed bilateral trade agreement, the US has agreed to lower tariffs on the majority of Indian goods to 18%, from a high of 50%.

According to Mittal, nearly 20% of agricultural equipment and 25% of construction equipment, manufactured by CNH in India, are exported. Majority of these exports go to the US, Europe and Latin America.

Reliance buys Southern Health Foods for Rs 156 cr

BENGALURU, DHNS

Reliance Consumer Products Limited (RCPL), the FMCG arm of Reliance Industries Limited, has acquired health foods maker Southern Health Foods Private Limited—from Tamil Nadu — for an aggregate cash consideration of Rs 156.42 crore from the existing shareholders of SHFPL.

The company, represented by its flagship brand 'Manna', has been a leading manufacturer of wide-ranging healthy foods for well over two decades.

SHFPL was incorporated on April 16, 2012. According to the company's BSE filing, the turnover of SHFPL for FY2024-25 was Rs 127.37 crore.

T Krishnakumar, Director, Reliance Consumer Products Limited, said, "Manna is one of the most trusted names in the health-focused foods market in Tamil Nadu with noticeable presence in the adjoining states. It is known for healthy offerings like millet-based staples and mixes, drinks and baby food. Apart from adding muscle to RCPL's packaged foods portfolio, Manna's addition will help us serve consumers the best nutritious foods."

SHFPL is a key player in several health-focused foods categories like packaged healthy foods—millets, oats, multi-grain products, health mixes, breakfast cereals, and dry fruits, among others. Manna is widely known for its healthy offerings in many emerging packaged foods categories like millet flour, baby foods and multi-grain drink mix.

Google gets EU antitrust nod for $32 bn Wiz buy

BRUSSELS, REUTERS: Alphabet's Google gained unconditional EU antitrust approval on Tuesday for its $32 billion acquisition of cybersecurity company Wiz, its biggest ever deal, after regulators said the deal would not raise any competition concerns.

The deal, announced in March last year, would boost Google's presence in cybersecurity and in cloud computing, where it competes with Amazon and Microsoft.

"Google stands behind Amazon and Microsoft in terms of market shares in cloud infrastructure, and our assessment confirmed that customers will continue to have credible alternatives and the ability to switch providers," EU antitrust chief Teresa Ribera said in a statement.

Titan Q3 profit up 61% to Rs 1,684 cr

NEW DELHI, PTI: Leading jewellery and watchmaker Titan on Tuesday reported 60.84% increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 1,684 crore for December quarter FY26, led by the domestic jewellery business.

The company posted a net profit of Rs 1,047 crore for the October-December period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Titan.

Sales were up 42% to Rs 24,915 crore in December quarter FY26.

Profit before Tax (before exceptional items) was Rs 2,375 crore at 9.7% margin, an increase of 70%.

"Normalising for the impact of customs duty reduction in gold in Q3FY25, the profit before tax grew 44% compared to the same period last year," an earnings statement said.

Total expenses increased 40.8% to Rs 23,192 crore in the December quarter. Total income, which includes other income, was at Rs 25,567 crore, up 43% year-on-year.

During the quarter, Titan's jewellery business increased 45.6% to Rs 23,492 crore driven by festive collections, brand campaigns and exchange initiatives, underscoring strong festive demand amid high gold prices.

"The business achieved an EBIT of Rs 2,475 crore at a margin of 11%," it said.

The Indian business of the jewellery section rose 41% to Rs 21,458 crore. The combined business of its brands Tanishq, Mia and Zoya was up 40% to Rs 19,921 crore in the December quarter of FY26.

Similarly, revenue from Watches & Wearables was up 13.9% to Rs 1,295 crore. This was helped by a strong traction in the festive season, driven by gifting occasions.

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Palace Road, Bangalore-560001, Phone: 22204928.
No.DTE-PLANOSPS1/26/2025/PART-1 Date: 10-02-2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner for Collegiate and Technical Education Bangalore hereby invites bids in Two-Cover system through KPP Portal from eligible bidders for the following tender. The Tender Documents with detailed terms and conditions may be obtained from the website **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in.**

Tender Schedules are as below

Item Name	Date of floating tender in KPP Portal	Date and time of pre-bid meeting	Last date and time for bidding through KPP Portal
Tender No.DTE/2025-26/ IND0046 Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Desktop Computers	10.02.2026	12.02.2026 12:00 Noon	17.02.2026 at 5:29 p.m.

The Department reserves the right to cancel or reject the tenders without any notification. Details in this regard may be obtained in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Director
Department of Technical Education
DIPR/CP/RO5573/AAPL/2025-26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2nd call
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design and QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(RB-IT)	BWSSB/EE(RB-IT)/ 913/2025-26 Date: 03.02.2026	Rs.44,16,504/- / Rs.88,500/-	19.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM	20.02.2026 at 4.01 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (RB-IT)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/5560/SSC/2025-26

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Attur Plantation, Near Clarion Hotel,
Keppanahalli Main Road, Attur, Yelahanka
No: A.C.F/BECC/P.R/31/2025-26 Date: 06.02.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Subject: Regarding providing information about dead trees and branches within the jurisdiction of Bangalore North City Corporation.

Regarding the above matter, the forest department is already clearing the dead/dangerous trees and branches on the roadsides/government lands in the Bangalore city limits. If the public finds any dead/dangerous trees and branches in the limits of the Bangalore North City Corporation, they can contact the helpline number 1533 or 080-22975936 and 9480685705 or send the GPS photo attached to the following officers via phone (WhatsApp) with the address. The press release is hereby issued as follows to provide information.

Sl. No.	Zone	Name of the assembly constituency	Name/Designation/Telephone Number of Officers
01	Zone-1	Byatarayanapura /Pulakesinagar/ Sarvajnanagar	Chethan Zonal Forest Officer Tel: 9845100982 Muthuraju K.P Deputy-Zonal Forest Officer Tel: 9483139438
02	Zone-2	Yelahanka/ Hebbal/ Dasarahalli Partially R.R.Nagar Partially	Rajappa K. Zonal Forest Officer Tel: 9448234928

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, BNCC

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Nandinagar Bidar.
No:EO/KVAFSU(B)/T.No-144-Call-2/15thConvocation/Pendal/2025-26/ Date: 07.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2
(e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works/ Goods / Services details Providing shamiyana ,Sound System, Seating & other arrangements for 15th convocation of the University scheduled on **25.02.2026 at KVAFSU, campus Nandinagar Bidar.** 2) Works/ Goods / Services estimated Amount As mentioned e-portal, 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal, 4) Works/ Goods / Services Tender Amount Details As mentioned e-portal, 5) Last date for obtaining blank tender forms **16.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** 6) Cost of Tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal 7) Last Date for submitting application **16.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM,** 8) Opening of Technical bid **18.02.2026 at 11.30 AM,** 9) Opening of Financial Bid**19.02.2026 at 11.30 AM,** 10) For more details contact office address, contract No Office of the Estate Officer,KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar08482-245446,11) Website details e-procurement portalKPP Portal

DIPR/Bidar/325/KSMC&A/2025-26 **Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.**

ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – ಧಾರವಾಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಅಮರಗೋಳ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ – 580 025.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0836 – 2322251, 2324426. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ : apmchubli@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕೃ.ಮಾ.ಇ./ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ.(ಹು)/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/2487–2489/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 10–02–2026

ಮರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ 2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಕ್ರಿಯಾ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ. – 2, 3 ರಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಹೊಸ ಆವೃತ್ತಿಯ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮರು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ (ಜಿ.ಎಸ್.ಟಿ. ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ
01	APMC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT744/CALL-2	30-28	ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26–02–2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
02	APMC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT745/CALL-2	29-87	
03	APMC/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT750/CALL-2	79-86	

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮತ್ತು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಧಾರವಾಡ/1217/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಕೃ.ಉ.ಮಾ.ಸ., ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

CHAMUNDESHWARI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Corporate Office, procurement Section, CESC, Mysuru-570017.
Ph: 0821-2544963, Email ID: gmproc@cescmysore.org Website: www.cescmysore.org

CESC/GM(P)/AGM(P-1)/2025-26/ 36119 Date:10.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

CESC, Mysore invites Short Term Tenders from eligible bidders for carrying out the following work on Rate Contract basis;

Sl.No	Circles	Divisions	Enquiry No/Date
Replacement of existing LT overhead by LT arial Bunched Cable in Hazardous location, Theft prone areas, slums, crowded public place, Narrow Roads, High interruption feeders, NJY Feeder crossing locations and schools / collages /Hostels premises etc.under rate contract for the following Circles/Divisions.			
01	Mysuru	Nanjanagudu Lot-1	C2-6436/09-02-2026
02		Nanjanagudu Lot-2	C2-6437/09-02-2026
03		Hunsuru	C2-6438/09-02-2026
04		KR Nagara	C2-6439/09-02-2026
05	Chamarajanagara-kodagu	Madikeri	C2-6440/09-02-2026
06		Chamarajanagara Lot-1	C2-6441/09-02-2026
07		Chamarajanagara Lot-2	C2-6442/09-02-2026
08		Kollegala Lot-1	C2-6443/09-02-2026
09		Kollegala Lot-2	C2-6444/09-02-2026
10	Mandya	Mandya	C2-6445/09-02-2026
11		Madduru	C2-6446/09-02-2026
12		Malavalli	C2-6447/09-02-2026
13		Pandavapura	C2-6448/09-02-2026
14		K R Pete	C2-6449/09-02-2026
15		Nagamangla	C2-6450/09-02-2026
16	Hassan	Hassan	C2-6451/09-02-2026
17		Sakaleshpura	C2-6452/09-02-2026
18		Channarayapattna	C2-6453/09-02-2026
19		Holenarasipura	C2-6454/09-02-2026
20		Arasikere	C2-6455/09-02-2026

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **12.02.2026.** For clarification contact help desk +91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail address support@eprochelpdesk.com.

For Electricity related complaints Call: 1912

DIPR/MYSORE/1638/SSC/2025-26

Sd/-
General Manager (Procurement),
CESC, Mysuru

'It will be challenging in Colombo vs Pak'

Ten Doeschate terms India's opener against USA a wake up call

MADHU JAWALI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The confirmation about the match against Pakistan may have come only late Monday, but India always prepared keeping in mind that the February 15 clash between the arch-rivals would eventually take place.

After initially announcing the boycott of their Group A match against India, Pakistan did a familiar U-turn after the International Cricket Council gave them a face-saving reason to climb down from their position after a three-way talks between the governing body, Pakistan Cricket Board and the Bangladesh Cricket Board in Karachi on Monday.

"First of all, it's great that the game's back on. We kind of never changed our preparation (because) the game wasn't going to happen," said Indian team's assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate here on Tuesday, ahead of the team's practice.

"We were always under the impression that something would transpire and we would play.

"So it's no big change the way we are going about things. And I guess we kind of got confirmation late yesterday and early this morning. It started coming through that the game was going to go ahead and we are delighted to have another chance to play against a quality side (Pakistan) in this first phase of the tournament."

The former Netherlands' player said the team did its best to stay clear of the politics around the event, and keep their focus firmly on cricket. "We are also trying to stay clear of all the politics; I've mentioned before about the sentiments of the country and know the different politics between the two countries, but it's really important for us just to focus on the cricket side of things." Ten Doeschate conceded that Pakistan, who have been in Sri Lanka for nearly a fortnight now, may have an advantage in terms of familiarity of conditions.

"It's going to be a challenge going to Colombo where Pakistan have been there for the last two weeks and we are fully focused on just bringing our best game to that fixture next week." Much before the T20 World Cup kicked off, India had been anointed as the overwhelming favourites to successfully defend the title they won in the Americas in 2024, and their form coming into the tournament suggested little else. But the USA, who had run them close in the previous edition as well, threatened to pull off a mother of all upsets when they reduced hosts to 6/77 and stunned the Mumbai crowd into silence.

But skipper Suryakumar Yadav saved the day for India, and ten Doeschate agreed it was a wake up call for the team.

"Look, I think being here for the New Zealand series kind of let us get used to the occasion," offered ten Doeschate when asked if there was pressure of defending the World Cup.

"So it maybe hasn't been as impactful or as eye-opening, arriving at a World Cup. But we understand the responsibility we carry on our shoulders. We want to play a certain way of cricket, and now it does feel like a World Cup.

"I think that first outing in Mumbai was a nice shakeup, a nice wake up when you find yourself 77 for six, realise you're starting the World Cup defence. We certainly know we're in a World Cup now, and the support and the following has been great, and the guys understand the privilege, and like I said, the responsibility they carry by representing their country in a home World Cup."

Bumrah ramps it up, Washy joins team

India received a shot in the arm with their pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah going full throttle at the "nets" here at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday, reports DHNS.

Bumrah had missed the opener in Mumbai against the USA after taking ill ahead of the match on Saturday. As India held a nearly three-hour practice session, ahead of their second Group A match against Namibia to be played here on Thursday, Bumrah bowled nearly 20 minutes with full intensity - a welcome development just before their grudge match against Pakistan on February 15 in Colombo.

"Booms (Bumrah) will bowl today. He's been what, 10 days without bowling, but he's feeling a lot better and moving a lot better. So we'll see how training goes today and tomorrow and then put the team together on Friday," said assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate.

Bumrah's return to the playing XI will force the team management to take the tough call of dropping Mohammed Siraj from the playing XI.

In another encouraging sign for India, off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar joined the team, and went through his bowling and batting rigours without the obvious discomfort.

Meanwhile, Abhishek Sharma, who didn't field during India-USA game, stayed put at the team hotel as he "still has got a few issues with his tummy."

India's Arshdeep Singh (left) and Hardik Pandya caught in a light mood during a training session at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Tuesday. PTI

Mohsin Naqvi

Only aim was to get respect for Bangladesh: PCB's Naqvi

PESHAWAR, PTI: PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday said Pakistan's decision to boycott their T20 World Cup match against India was aimed solely at securing "respect" for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh were ousted from the tournament for refusing to play in India citing security concerns.

Earlier this month, the Pakistan government said its national team would not take the field against India for their group game in the T20 World Cup on February 15 in Colombo.

However, after negotiations between the PCB, Bangladesh Cricket Board and the International Cricket Council, the Pakistan government withdrew the boycott order late Monday night. "We did not discuss anything apart from Bangladesh, our only purpose was to get Bangladesh respect, to highlight the injustice done to them. And you saw that whatever demands Bangladesh made, they were accepted. That's it," Naqvi said.

"We had no personal interest in the meeting ... our task was purely related to Bangladesh. The government made the decision on that (basis).

"When their demands have been accepted, and it has been acknowledged that injustice was done to them, we are playing after that."

Naqvi had on Sunday met his Bangladesh counterpart Aminul Islam and ICC deputy chair Imran Khwaja in Lahore, to resolve the standoff over Pakistan's proposed boycott.

England skipper Harry Brook (left) will be hoping his pace ace Jofra Archer comes up with a strong show against the dangerous West Indies on Wednesday. REUTERS

Shaken England look to step it up against Windies

MUMBAI, PTI: Given a scare by lower-ranked Nepal in the lung-opener itself, England would eye a more assured performance when they take on the West Indies in an evenly-matched and crucial Group C clash of the T20 World Cup here on Wednesday.

Both the teams have won the competition twice in the past and are chasing a third title like tournament co-hosts and defending champions India. The challenge would be to remain at their best on the given day as margins can be dangerously thin in T20 cricket.

LIVE 7 PM

It was something which England experienced when they took on a team several rungs below them but one that gave them a tough challenge on the field.

Sam Curran was the hero of the game for England, who had put on an at-par total of 184/7. He was relentless in his line and length in the final over to defend 10 runs and help his side escape unscathed in a contest which Nepal had threatened to run away with. All in all, England would feel their batting department did a better job than the bowling.

NZ openers Seifert, Allen blow UAE away

CHENNAI, PTI: The New Zealand opening pair of Tim Seifert and Finn Allen went on a rampage against the UAE bowling attack to make short work of the 174-run target, firing the Blacks Caps to a 10-wicket win in the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

The UAE did well to post 173 for six, their highest total in tournament history following fine fifties captain Muhammad Waseem (66 not out off 45) and Alishan Sharafu (55 off 4) at the top of the order.

However, the destructive duo of Allen (84 not out off 50) and Seifert (89 not out off 42) ran riot on a red soil pitch to fashion a 10-wicket victory for their team.

Their 175-run stand off 92 balls was the highest for any wicket in tournament history as New Zealand coasted to the win in 15.2 overs. It was the first game of the tournament for UAE who would need to go back to the drawing board after the hammering at Chepauk.

New Zealand, eliminated early in the previous edition, have fired warning shots to rival teams with two emphatic wins in as many games.

Barring left-arm spinner Haider Ali, none of the UAE bowlers were able to contain Seifert and Allen who scored boundaries at will.

NZ's Tim Seifert scored an unbeaten 89 to star in his side's win over UAE. AFP

The game was as good as done when New Zealand raced to 119 for no loss in 10 overs. The standout shots of Seifert's innings were the reverse sweeps off Haider in the 11th over, fetching him a six and four.

Allen tore into medium pacer Junaid Siddique early on the innings as he shuffled across the stumps to scoop him for a six over fine leg.

UAE pacers looked clueless against the onslaught of the New Zealand openers.

Brief scores: UAE: 173/6 in 20 overs (Muhammad Waseem 66 n.o., Alishan Sharafu 55; Matt Henry 2-37) lt to New Zealand: 175/0 in 15.2 overs (Tim Seifert 89 n.o., Finn Allen 84 n.o.).
Result: New Zealand win by 10 wickets. **PoM:** Tim Seifert.

Dutch slay Namibia to stay in the hunt

NEW DELHI, PTI: Bas de Leede hit an assured 72 as the Netherlands kept their Super 8 hopes alive in the men's T20 World Cup with a confident seven-wicket win against Namibia in their Group A match here on Tuesday, bouncing back from a painful defeat to Pakistan from a strong position.

The Netherlands produced a tidy, disciplined bowling performance to restrict Namibia to a modest 156 for 8 in the clash between the associate nations despite a spirited middle-overs recovery from the African side.

This is Namibia's first outing of the tournament, and it showed in patches. Short of match time in recent weeks, with their last T20I being that last-ball win over South Africa in October last year, they took time to find rhythm. With the Indian team not involved, the stands were sparsely populated, but the cricket on display was of good quality.

Brief scores: Namibia: 156/8 in 20 overs (Jan Frylinck 30, Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton 42; Logan van Beek 2-13, Bas de Leede 2-20) lt to Netherlands: 159/3 in 18 overs (Michael Levitt 28, Bas de Leede 72 n.o., Colin Ackermann 32). **Result:** Netherlands won by 7 wkts. **PoM:** Bas de Leede.

Pakistan exact sweet revenge on Americans

COLOMBO, PTI

Sahibzada Farhan's power-filled fifty and spinner's accuracy lifted Pakistan to a smooth 32-run win over the United States of America in a Group A match of the T20 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Farhan's 41-ball 73 led Pakistan to a healthy 190 for nine, and then their highly-efficient spin quartet of Abrar Ahmed (1/30), Mohammad Nawaz (1/21), Shadab Khan (2/26) and Usman Tariq (3/27) did not allow the US batters any breathing space, limiting them to 158 for eight.

It was Pakistan's second successive victory in this tournament, and now they are leading the group with four points.

Shubham Ranjane made an aggressive fifty (51, 30b), but it was useful only to reduce the margin of defeat.

However, openers Shayan Jahangir (49 off 34) and Andries Gous (13 off 13) gave a reasonable start to the USA's chase, taking them to 42 in the fifth over, but the introduction of spin changed the complexion of the match.

Gous was hold out to Salman Agha in the deep off Nawaz. The USA, who had defeated Pakistan in the last edition of the T20 World Cup, ended the power play at 50 for 1. But it was all a struggle for them thereafter. The dismissal was a precursor to the ensuing happenings as Pakistan spinners grabbed seven of the eight USA wickets that had fallen on the night.

Opener Sahibzada Farhan scored a 41-ball 73 to help Pakistan beat USA by 32 runs in Colombo on Tuesday. PTI

The next four overs saw the US batters struggling massively against Pakistan spinners, adding just 18 runs for the loss of skipper Monank Patel, who gave a return catch to leg-spinner Shadab Khan.

Jahangir too departed soon. His attempted heave off Shadab ended in the hands of Shaheen Shah Afridi at mid-wicket.

Ranjane and Milind Kumar (23) added 66 runs for the fourth wicket but the required run-rate was far too steep to cover-up even with some lusty hits down.

Earlier, Farhan and Babar (46, 32b) added 81 runs for the third wicket as Pakistan recovered well from a slightly worrying 56 for two after the Power Play.

After being asked to bat first, Pakistan were initially cruising at 56 for no loss in five overs.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 190/9 in 20 overs (Sahibzada Farhan 73, Babar Azam 46, Shadab Khan 30; Shadley van Schalkwyk 4-25) bt USA: 158/8 in 20 overs (Shayan Jahangir 49, Milind Kumar 29, Shubham Ranjane 51; Shadab Khan 2-26, Usman Tariq 3-27). **Result:** Pakistan won by 32 runs. **PoM:** Sahibzada Farhan.

Bengal complete Andhra demolition job

KALYANI (WEST BENGAL), PTI: Bengal marched into the semifinals of the Ranji Trophy after registering a comprehensive innings and 90 runs victory over Andhra here on Tuesday, the foundation of which was laid by Sudip Kumar Gharami's monumental 299.

SEMIS LINE-UP

- Feb 15-19: Uttarakhand vs Karnataka (Lucknow); Bengal vs J&K (Kalyani).

Resuming their second innings on 64 for three on Day 5, the contest was as good as over for Andhra after they conceded a massive first-innings lead of 334 runs on the fourth and penultimate day.

Brief scores: Andhra: 295 & (O/n: 64/3) 244 all out in 72.2 overs (Ricky Bhui 30, Nitish Kumar Reddy 90, Kalidindi Raju 25, Tripurana Vijay 46; Suraj Sindhu Jaiswal 2-42, Shahbaz Ahmed 4-72) lt to Bengal: 629.
Result: Bengal won by an innings and 90 runs.

Vyshak returns for semis

BENGALURU, DHNS: Having missed Karnataka's last two games, a fit-again Vyshak Vijaykumar on Tuesday returned to the squad for the Ranji Trophy semifinals against Uttarakhand at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow from February 15-19.

With Vyshak making his anticipated return, M Venkatesh was omitted from the 15-member squad.

Karnataka squad: Mayank Agarwal, KL Rahul, Aneesh KV, Devdutt Padikkal (Capt), Karun Nair Smaran R, Shreyas Gopal, Kruthik Krishna (wk), Vidwath Kaverappa, Vidyadhar Patil Prasidh M Krishna, Mohsin Khan, Shikhar Shetty, Shrijith KL (wk), Vyshak V.

Spin-heavy Aussies eye strong start

COLOMBO, PTI: Their recent form has been far from convincing and the loss of two lead pacers has only added to Australia's woes but the former champions will still start as overwhelming favourites in their T20 World Cup opener against Ireland here on Wednesday.

Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood form one of most potent fast-bowling units of the modern game and Australia will miss their services in the showpiece event.

While Cummins and Hazlewood were ruled out due to injuries, left-arm pacer Starc has retired from the format internationally.

SA V AFG (11 AM); AUS V IRE (3 PM)

In their absence, Nathan Ellis is expected to lead the pace attack but even he has an injury cloud hovering over him and is yet to play a game since missing the Big Bash League (BBL) final with a hamstring issue.

Seasoned leg-spinner Adam Zampa is entering the tournament after overcoming a groin issue which made it possible for him to be available for the group stage.

Considering the conditions across the sub-continent, Zampa will be critical to Australia's hopes in the tournament which they last won in 2022. While leading the spin attack, the experienced Zampa will look to form a fruitful partnership with fellow tweakers Cooper Connolly and Matt Kuhnemann with all four of the side's group stage matches to be played in Sri Lanka.

While the bowling unit no doubt wears a depleted look compared to their attacks of the past, they have the requisite firepower in batting.

Adam Zampa

Bengaluru-bred Sanjay living the American dream

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

The United States cricket team has flown to the sub-continent for the T20 World Cup, and it has brought a few familiar faces with it. And one among those is Sanjay Krishnamurthi.

After having watched India lift the 2011 ODI World Cup about 15,000 km away in Arizona as a seven-year-old, Sanjay was batting against India in USA's campaign opener, not just in the country but at a stadium where he first dreamt about playing the sport on a television screen: Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai.

"We were in America, and it was April when (MS) Dhoni hit that famous six. It was early morning, and Sanjay was half-sleepy and got all excited. That's where the story began. And to play against India at Wankhede, I don't have the words to describe it," Satya Krishnamurthi, Sanjay's father, tells *DH*.

Three months later, in July 2011, Satya moved to Bengaluru with his family for personal reasons. And luckily for Sanjay, it opened up new avenues.

After slowly settling in Sarjapur Road, Satya, wanting to enroll Sanjay in a cricket academy, stepped into J Arun Kumar's facility.

"Within the first week of coaching, the coaches told me that Sanjay is generating swing naturally and is quite talented. He was recognised as a good pacer."

While things were fairly bright for Sanjay, coach Bharat from the JAK academy made an influential shift, advising him to experiment with left-arm spin.

The next thing he knew, he was troubling former Karnataka cricketers K Jeshwant and Vijay Bharadwaj in the nets, bowling spin. Sanjay also won the Anil Kumble Spin Star trials.

Having made his USA debut in 2021, Sanjay Krishnamurthi has earned 27 national caps so far. AFP

As months passed and Sanjay became serious about the sport, Satya felt it was best to get him into a school which had a solid cricket side.

While all three of Satya and Julie Krishnamurti's kids were into cricket, only Sanjay was enrolled at Ebenezer International School, as the fees for all three were unaffordable.

And that also was not as straightforward. Even for Sanjay, Julie had to work in the school for some concession. However, she says, "It was no sacrifice because that's what we do as a family."

"When he won the cricket trials (Spin Stars), I wanted to pay more attention to his talent. And we realised we needed a cricketing school. We searched around and found Ebenezer International School. That's where he played with Smaran R and Rushil Ugarkar," Satya adds.

At a time when school cricket was the focus, Sanjay also played for various clubs in Bengaluru. While the performances were not the concern, Satya found the club cricket days "very messy" for several reasons.

When Sanjay wasn't able to break into the Karnataka age group teams (U-14/U-16), a collaborative decision to focus on batting was talked about. He worked with a specialist batting coach from Andhra Pradesh, and the batting seeds that were sown, blossomed into runs. He was also KSCA's best batter and went on to play for Karnataka.

Later on, Sanjay worked with Jeshwant at the Six Academy, where his most "influential and life-changing" shift came: a change in batting approach from defensive to aggressive. A role he is currently flourishing with USA.

"The US cricket team was looking for US passport holders. They invited a few players to Mumbai. We travelled to America in March 2020. He featured in the Minor League Cricket and won the Most Valuable Player award. And those performances earned him a national call-up.

In 2021, Sanjay made his USA debut against Nepal in Al Amerat. While the journey has had its fair share of ups and downs, Satya, more than anyone, knows his kid is living the American dream.

IN BRIEF

Shreyansh, Hemashree win U-9 titles

▸ Shreyansh Das and Hemasree Challagulla won the U-9 Open boys and girls titles respectively of the BUDCA District Level Selection Chess Championships, reports DHNS.

Standings: U-9 Open: Boys: Shreyansh Das (21k school) 1, Reyansh Tripathy (Brigade, Mahadevapura) 2. **Girls:** Hemasree Challagulla (Foundation, Varthur) 1, Dhiya Parekh (Gear School) 2.

Christ edge out LNIPE

▸ Shomira Bidaye scored 26 points in Christ University's thrilling 71-70 victory over LNIPE University in the All-India Inter University Basketball Championship for Women in Bengaluru, reports DHNS.

Results: Christ University: 71 (Shomira Bidaye 26, Adhya Swamy 11) bt LNIPE University: 70 (Sonal 24, Titiksha 12). HT: 27-33; Jain University: 89 (Aahana 14, Dhara 13) bt DAVV Indore: 47 (Agrawal 15, Yamika 12). HT: 52-23; University of Rajasthan: 64 (Deepanshi 20, Shakshi 7) bt MBSPSU, Patiala: 21 (Simon 11, Manpreet 4). HT: 34-11; Punjab University, Chandigarh: 73 (KomalPreet 31, Nadar Kaur 17) bt LTM University: 62 (Riya Sharma 17, Ishika Mangrole 19); SRM University, Chennai: 76 (Jeevika 19, Sangamitra 19) bt Hemchand University: 55 (Archana 19, Anisha 13). HT: 34-28.

Scorers exam on Feb 22

▸ The Karnataka State Cricket Association will conduct an entrance examination for aspiring scorers on February 22 at its premises, reports DHNS.

Successful candidates in the examination will be eligible for a course and a final round of examination. The last date for submission of application is February 19.

Bogey-free Tvesa takes lead

▸ Indian golfer Tvesa Malik fired the only bogey-free round on the opening day of the third leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour to take the sole lead in Pune on Tuesday, reports PTI from Pune.

Tvesa had one birdie on each side of the course.

Ronak shines in National SC, Mysuru win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ronak notched up 41 points in National SC, Mysuru's 87-78 win over Mangalore BC, Mangalore in the Karnataka Rural Basketball Championships for men at the Kanteerava Stadium Courts on Tuesday.

Results: National SC, Mysuru: 87 (Ronak 41, Suman 24) bt Mangalore BC, Mangalore: 78 (Prastik 23, Amruth 17). HT: 45-29; Pro Tec Association, Mysuru: 94 (Ranjith 21, Ravindra 15, Rohith 11) bt Ycbc Bellary: 65 (Sadiq 27, Rooman 25). HT: 53-31; National SC, Mysuru 65 (Ronak 32, Suman 13) Beat Pinakini Gauribidanur 43 (Ummer 21, Vidyasagar 18). HT: 40-16; Mangalore BC, Mangalore: 69 (Prastik 22, Sagar 17, Amruth 16) bt Chinnadanadu BC Kolar: 55 (Hemanth 23, Tarun 12, Bharath 12). HT: 38-34; Marians BC, Chikkamagaluru: 62 (Rishabh 16, Bharath 14) bt Bhagwan BC, Kalaburagi 32 (Chetan 10, Pruthvi 7). HT: 30-13; Pro Tec Association Mysuru 69 (Rohith 18, Ranjith 13) Beat Sai Dharwad 44 (Sanket 26) HT: 37-20; SAI Dharwad: 74 (Sanket 17, Varun 16, Gayas 15) bt Bhgawan BC: 27 (Adharsh 9, Vishwas 9, Pruthvi 6). HT: 36-15; Marians BC Chikkamagaluru: 81 (Bharath 18, Om Shetty 17) bt Ycbc Bellary: 22 (Sadiq 11, Asif 04) HT: 41-18; Chinnadanadu BC, Kolar: 59 (Tarun 25, Hemanth 16) bt Pinakini Gauribidanur: 56 (Pavan 20, Danny 18). HT: 35-23.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 World Cup: South Africa vs Afghanistan **(11 am)**, Australia vs Ireland **(3 pm)**, England vs West Indies **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Man City vs Fulham, Aston Villa vs Brighton, Palace vs Burnley, Nottingham vs Wolves **(1 am, Thursday)**, Sunderland vs Liverpool **(1:45 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

HOCKEY

FIH Pro League: India vs Belgium **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

SHOOTING

Asian Rifle/Pistol C'Ships: 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team **(day 8, 10:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

FORMULA 1

Pre-season Testing: Day 1 **(12:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode**.

HOCKEY

India gear up for Pro test

Fulton & men host higher ranked Belgium and Argentina

ROURKELA, PTI

The Indian men's hockey team will seek to establish early dominance in its quest to do way better than the eighth-place finish in the last edition when the side begins its FIH Pro League campaign against formidable Belgium and Argentina here from Wednesday.

India will begin their campaign against Belgium on Wednesday, followed by a clash against Argentina on Thursday. The hosts will once again face Belgium on Saturday before concluding the leg against Argentina on Sunday.

The Indian squad, featuring a balanced mix of experienced internationals and emerging young talent, will look to capitalise on familiar conditions as they take on two of the world's top-ranked teams.

While India are yet to open their campaign, both Argentina and Belgium arrive in Rourkela after a solid start to the season.

Argentina are currently second in the standings with 11 points, having played four matches, in which they recorded three regulation-time wins and one shootout victory.

Belgium, meanwhile, are placed third with 10 points, also from four matches, having secured three regulation-time wins and one shootout defeat.

Historically, Belgium have enjoyed the upper hand in head-to-head encounters against India in recent years.

Since 2013, the two sides have met 35 times, with Belgium winning 22 matches, India winning 11, and two matches ending in draws.

Against Argentina, however, India hold a stronger record, winning 10 of their 19 meetings since 2013, compared to Argentina's seven wins.

Speaking ahead of their opening match, India captain Harmanpreet Singh said, "I am very happy to see youngsters like Amandeep Lakra, Manmeet Singh and Rosan Kujur earning their opportunities in the squad. They have performed exceptionally well in the recent Hero Hockey India League and have shown great potential.

"This is the right time for them to step up at the international level, and I am confident they will make the most of this opportunity. The entire team is fit, motivated, and excited, and we are looking forward to seeing these young players express themselves and contribute strongly to the team's performance," he added.

With passionate support expected at the Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, the Indian team will look to convert that advantage into crucial points and make a confident start.

Sharing his thoughts ahead of the matches against Argentina and India, Belgium captain Arthur Van Doren stated, "We feel sharp, we feel strong, and there's a lot of confidence and energy in the squad."

Harmanpreet Singh-led India will face a formidable challenge from Belgium and Argentina in the FIH Pro League which kicks off in Rourkela on Wednesday.

LIVE 7:30 PM, STAR SPORTS NETWORK

Aakriti wins 3P silver, Anjum claims bronze

Kazakh shooter Shulzhenko sets world record

NEW DELHI, PTI

India's Aakriti Dahiya and Anjum Moudgil won the silver and bronze medal respectively in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Asian Shooting Championship here on Tuesday.

Kazakhstan shooter Sofiya Shulzhenko set a new world record in the same event en route winning gold at the Karni Singh Range.

Sofiya ended the 35-shot final with a score of 358.2, a whole four points clear of silver winning Aakriti. Aakriti's senior team-mate Anjum, a world championship medallist, clinched bronze with a score of 340.4.

Sofiya's score also gave her three more records -- world junior, Asian and Asian junior.

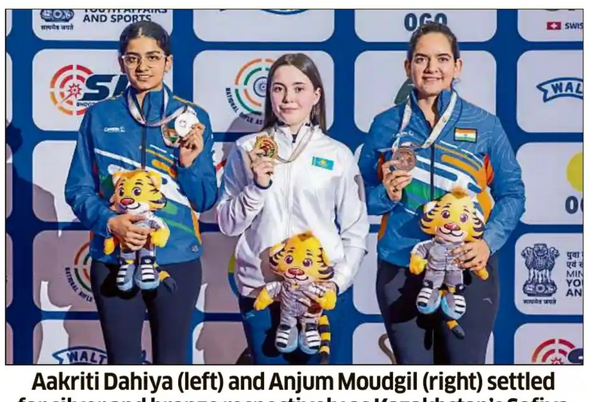
Later in the junior women's 3P final, India's Prachi Gaikwad emerged triumphant with a score of 353.3. The 14-year-old Kazakh shooter Tomiris Amanova won silver with 351.4 while Anushka Thokur bagged another bronze for the hosts with an effort which ended after the 34th shot at 341.1.

Prachi, Anushka and Hazel also won the team gold in the event with a tally of 1748, seven clear of team Kazakhstan. In the senior women's 3P, the Kazak shooters turned the tables on the Indians by four points, to win gold with a combined score of 1760.

Paris Olympian and bronze medallist in the Buenos Aires World Cup last year, Arina Malinovskaya topped the women's 3P qualification field with a score of 588 after 20 shots each in the kneeling, prone and standing positions.

Anjum shot 587 to take second spot while Ashi Chouksey was fourth with 586. Aakriti took the sixth qualifying spot with a total of 583 while the winner Shulzhenko shot 587 to take third spot behind Anjum.

In the final, the three Indians were on top after the first kneeling position with Aakriti in the lead, but Shulzhenko was on another tangent.



Aakriti Dahiya (left) and Anjum Moudgil (right) settled for silver and bronze respectively as Kazakhstan's Sofiya Shulzhenko set a new record in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions at the Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships. NRAI

DYES lose 0-11 with absent coach & 10 players

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

LOCAL FOOTBALL

Karnataka's Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports Football Club lost a season record 0-11 to table-toppers Stride Sports FC in the BDFA A Division League as the state government side showed up with just 10 players and no coaching staff.

DYES FC, placed 13th, are flirting with relegation with a mere 7 points in 11 matches while Karnataka State Football Association was informed that most of their players were unavailable due to Pre-University exams.

As far as coach Shanthi S's absence is concerned, it was learnt that the DYES football head coach had a trials to officiate outside the city. Interestingly, Shanthi's absence has been observed in many of the previous matches while the former Super Division team continues to cut a sorry figure this season.

With the priorities lying elsewhere, the team's first goalkeeper Nagaraj KV was forced to play as an outfield player while Nadibevaru Ajaykumar donned the gloves due to the shortage.

Upon being contacted, DYES commissioner R Chethan assured that an enquiry will be done on the incident and appropriate action will be taken.

Results: A Division: Blitz FC: 2 (Atharva Apurv Shukla 70th, Pravruth BH- 90th) bt Income Tax FC: 0; Stride FC: 11 (Rajesh T 9th, Ginneithang Gangte 12th, 35th, 36th, 67th, 70th, Yohan Jacob 23rd, 49th, TH Imran Khan 56th P, 71st, 88th) bt DYES FC: 0; Bangalore Eagles FC: 1 (Vijayakumar R 9th) bt Sniper FC: 0; Real Chikkamagaluru FC: 1 (Shodhitya Dubey) bt RWF FC: 0.

Winter Olympics medals under scrutiny as organisers probe

ANTHOLZ (ITALY), AFP: The organisers of the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics said on Monday they were investigating why medals are breaking after competitors, including gold medallist skier Breezy Johnson, said they were falling apart.

"We are aware of the situation. We have seen the images. Obviously, we are trying to understand in detail if there is a problem," Andrea Francisi, Milan-Cortina 2026 chief games operating officer, said during a press briefing.

Johnson, who won gold in the women's downhill alpine skiing on Sunday, was among the first to encounter the problem when she showed her broken medal.

"So there's the medal. And there's the ribbon," she told reporters. "And here's the little piece that is supposed to go into the ribbon to hold the medal, and yeah, it came apart."

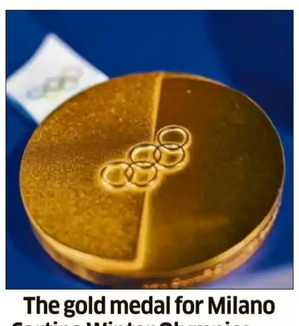
The 30-year-old had a word of warning for her fellow competitors. "Don't jump in them," she said. "I was jumping in excitement, and it broke... It's not crazy broken, but a little broken."

It was a similar story for Alysa Liu after she won a gold as part of the USA figure skating team event on Sunday.

German biathlete Justus Strelow, who won bronze in the mixed relay on Sunday, happened to catch the moment his medal came out the worse for wear after celebrating with his teammates.

Meanwhile Japan has filed an official protest with Olympic organisers after the figure skating medal podium at the Milan-Cortina Games left athletes with chipped skate blades following the team competition.

Japan team official Yosuke Takeuchi said the podium was "a rough, asphalt-like substance made of cut stone", which chipped skaters' blades when they stepped onto it.



The gold medal for Milano Cortina Winter Olympics. AFP

Tejashwini, Sahana star in Karnataka win

BENGALURU, DHNS: BG Tejashwini and Sahana S Pawar picked up three-wickets apiece as Karnataka thrashed Madhya Pradesh in their Elite Group A Senior Women's One-Day Trophy fixture at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot on Tuesday.

With three wins on the bounce, Karnataka now sit on top of Group A with 12 points while Maharashtra are locked on points, dropping to second due to inferior net run rate.

Having called it right at the toss and opting to bowl, Karnataka's Tejashwini (3/7) and Sahana (3/7) broke Madhya Pradesh's batting backbone, cheaply bowling them out for a mere 84 in 29.2 overs.

Chasing just 85 for victory, Karnataka romped home in 16.1 overs, thanks to skipper S Shubha's 28-ball 36.

Brief scores: Madhya Pradesh: 84 all out in 29.2 overs (Pooja Vastrakar 36; BG Tejashwini 3-7, Sahana S Pawar 3-7) lt to Karnataka: 86/3 in 16.1 overs (S Shubha 36).
Karnataka's next match: Odisha (Feb 12).

SC Bengaluru push for I-League participation

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Sporting Club Bengaluru wrote a letter to the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for participation in the much-delayed I-League, starting February 21, in case any of the 11 confirmed teams pull out of the second-tier competition.

SC Bengaluru, who finished in the bottom two last season, may have a shot at participation as the Churchill Brothers have boycotted the I-League, set to be renamed Indian Football League, in their protest for not getting a spot in the top-tier Indian Super League over their champions' controversy with Inter Kashi.

It is also worth noting that the bottom-placed side from last season, Delhi FC, has been pushing for a stay on relegation and its appeal was heard by AIFF's disciplinary committee. A decision on the matter will be pronounced on Wednesday.

"In light of recent uncertainties surrounding club participation across divisions, we consider it appropriate to place on record that, in the event any vacancy arises in the I-League owing to withdrawal, non-participation or any other contingency, Sporting Club Bengaluru would be fully prepared and willing to participate in the forthcoming I-League season," wrote SCB to AIFF.

DH has learnt that SCB, who are on the verge of getting direct investment from a major Serie A club, are willing to pay the participation fee of Rs 20 lakh while some of the confirmed participants are yet to clear their dues.

The practice of allowing relegated clubs to compete upon vacancy is not new in Indian football as Kenkre FC were allowed to compete in the 2021 and 2022 after Chennai City and Indian Arrows pulled out respectively.

MARUTI SUZUKI
NEXA
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